



Miller Highlights

June 2010

2010 Spring in Review

This past spring started out with a period of warm and dry weather lasting from mid-March through April 22, which allowed most of you to plant your corn in a timely fashion. Since April 22 many of us have reverted to a month of extended periods of wind, rain and cold until the hot spell, which began May 23. Several issues have come into play due to the weather, including some frost damage on May 8, weed problems arising from difficulty spraying due to wet fields and wind, herbicide injury from PPO chemistry and unsafened Alachlor's, anhydrous ammonia burn, and flooded or saturated soils. Corn is now starting to green up as it is actively growing and taking up N, and it looks like most frost damaged corn has survived.

Replant Considerations

This was a year with many flooded or saturated field areas which need to be replanted, especially in SE Iowa. Miller Hybrids will provide free replant seed if emergence was poor and will provide corn at 50% of the untraited price for flooded areas. Replanting corn at this stage is probably not warranted if you still have a uniform stand of 23,000 to 25,000 plants per acre. We can assist you in replant decisions

Insects

Black Cutworms are currently cutting plants in fields at this time. Cruiser and Poncho only provide mild suppression of Black Cutworms. Carefully scout your fields for evidence of plant cutting, with greater concern paid to weedy areas or late planted corn, and treat if necessary.

Corn nematodes are getting more attention now that the Avicta seed treatment is on the market, but it is unclear how many fields have enough nematode pressure to benefit from Avicta and how long Avicta retains effectiveness. This IPM newsletter provides more information on nematodes and sampling procedures: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2010/0526tylka.htm>

Miller Hybrids will again have corn rootworm traps to allow you to see the corn rootworm pressure you have in rotated fields. Contact Miller Hybrids by July 2, if you would like to participate in this monitoring program.

Diseases

This is a year for kernel rots and early season root rots in wet and compacted spots. Scout low lying areas of your fields for possible replant needs. Plan to use foliar fungicides on fields where it appears you have excellent yield potential, especially in continuous corn situations. I would at least recommend doing some field research where all variables are the same except for the treatment of fungicide. I have not seen evidence to suggest early application of fungicide and still recommend spraying at or post full silk.

Nitrogen

These past two years, the single most limiting factor in many corn fields, was having adequate nitrogen during grain fill. Nitrogen applied as a side-dress application really paid dividends, especially in wetter fields and in continuous corn. Now is the time to start sidedressing N in your fields that experienced significant saturated soil conditions since planting. I prefer to sidedress corn that is about a foot tall, but corn at that stage grows quickly and rain can prevent getting the sidedressing done, so error on the side of starting early.



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Herbicides

This year in many cases there may be a need to respray to completely control tough weeds such as thistles, lambsquarter or giant ragweed, as Ignite® or Glyphosate (“Roundup”) herbicides sprayed when weeds were not actively growing, due to cold and or wet conditions, were not always totally effective. Remember that in corn, yield loss occurs even with 3 inch weed competition and timely weed control is critical to maximize your yield potential. I encourage early spraying of Ignite, on Liberty Link corn, as it should be sprayed by the time there are 6 leaves and often leaves are undercounted as the bottom 2 leaves will dry up and disappear. Later spraying without drop nozzles can lead to crop injury

Alfalfa

Miller Hybrids’ has a great alfalfa portfolio including the new branch-rooted hybrid MA375HY/BR which has excelled in the wet and dry conditions. Let us know about any concerns with your alfalfa and be sure to maintain a pH above 6.5, adequate potassium, and adequate leaf hopper control. Miller Hybrids msSunstra® thin-stemmed, leafy hybrid alfalfa varieties dry fast, especially if tethered, and have fast regrowth to allow recutting in about 24 days.

Corn Seed and Pallet Returns

Call us to arrange pick up of any pallets which we may have left in your storage sheds, or return them to Gringer AG at 2144 Old Hwy 218 South, Iowa City. If you have any unopened seed bags, we can store them for you in cold storage until next year or credit your account. All unopened seed must be returned by June 23, so it can go in cold storage and be fumigated in a timely fashion. Miller Hybrids’ heavy oak pallets not returned by June 30 will be invoiced in July at \$15 each.

New Office and Warehouse Planned for Miller Hybrids this Summer

Due to expanded sales and research, Miller Hybrids will build a new headquarters near Kalona, Iowa this summer. This building will include offices, a conference room, a research work area, machinery storage and seed storage. We are planning a grand opening in September, 2010.

New Products

Miller Hybrids is introducing several new hybrids for the 2011 planting season including M56-67BRG, which is an exciting new 105 day Agrisure® 3000GT and M67-85BR which is a unique top yielding 111 day Agrisure CBLRW hybrid. M57-51 (107 day) and M53-59 (109 day), which are 2 key newer products in the Miller Hybrids portfolio will be offered for the first time as Agrisure 3000GT products.

Chad Gillam 319-330-8021 or **Bob Miller 319-325-6158** are available to help decide on replant considerations and disease or insect management ideas to **maximize your profit**. If you need some replant corn seed or low-cost silage corn to plant after first-cutting hay, please let us know. We have a great referral program which provides seed credit to you for each unit sold to a referred prospect and would appreciate any leads and referrals.