Early Season Growth

Cool/cold air/soil temperatures and damp/wet soil conditions during April and May limited root system development. Root system development was limited in length and depth.

This situation translated into numerous cornfield visit requests. NCDA Soil Tests and Plant Analysis Reports commonly revealed nutrient deficiencies (particularly mobile nutrients such as nitrogen and sulfur) due to limited root systems and leaching rainfall (particularly in sandy soil field areas). In some cases, low soil pH added to limited root systems and nutrient deficiencies.

Some cornfield visits revealed nematodes. Stubby root, lesion, and sting nematodes were found at levels that can cause significant plant damage. Fortunately in most cases, affected sandy soil field areas were small. Nematode affected plants were 2-4 inches tall, severely stunted, and multi-colored. Nematode affected plants revealed stubby, swollen, and extremely short roots with “burned” root tips. Current corn seed treatments do not offer nematode control or suppression.

Variety Tests

Major/Major Foy Ivey and Adam Grady are cooperators for 2 Duplin County Corn Variety Tests.

The Major/Major Foy Ivey Test is located on Summerlin Crossroads Road, 2.5 miles south of Rones Chapel. Varieties present are AgVenture GX248, Augusta A08-008CBQ, DeKalb 62-99, Mycogen 2T789, Northrup King N77P-3000GT, Pioneer 33M57, Seed Consultants 11RR58, Southern States 775RR2, Trisler 5A01, and Vigoro V5373. Northrup King N77-P5 is the check variety.

The Adam Grady Test is located on Sarecta Road, 3.1 miles east of Highway 11/903. Varieties present are AgVenture CH485620, Augusta A007Q, DeKalb 69-40, Garst 82R45GT, Mycogen 2T826, Northrup King N78NGT, Pioneer 31P42, Seed Consultants 11BR97, Southern States 783, Trisler 9J38, and Vigoro V60YR82. Pioneer 31P41 is the check variety.

Signs are present at both locations. Please visit these comparisons at your convenience.
TOBACCO

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV)

TSWV has been a common tobacco topic. TSWV pressure has been early and high. Past NCSU On-Farm Tests show an Admire Pro greenhouse tray drench at the rate of 0.8 oz/1000 plants provides 40-50% TSWV suppression. Past NCSU On-Farm Tests show Admire Pro + Actigard greenhouse treatments or Platinum + Actigard greenhouse treatments provide 65-80% TSWV suppression.

Current counts from the Warren Sloan Tobacco Tomato Spotted Wilt On-Farm Test reveal the following: 32% TSWV in untreated plots, 8% TSWV in Admire Pro (0.8 oz /1000 plants greenhouse tray drench) plots, and 2% TSWV in Admire Pro (0.8 oz/1000 plants greenhouse tray drench) + Actigard (0.12 oz/100 gallons of greenhouse floatbed water) plots.

Two Duplin County tobacco operations (Warren Sloan & Milton/Doug/Bryan/Jeremy Hunter) have used an Admire Pro + Actigard treatment for 2 or more years. Their operations are present in a traditionally high TSWV area.

CO₂ Meter Barn Testing

Many Duplin County tobacco barns have been tested recently to determine the integrity of the indirect-fired curing system. Elevated CO₂ levels reveal that a leak or crack is present. In some cases, it is difficult to determine where the leak or crack is present. Smoke candles (bombs) can be effectively used to make this determination. Please call if you would like smoke candle information.

Contact Sucker Control

The 1st contact (fatty alcohol sucker control product) application should be made when 50% of plants reach the button stage. A 2nd contact application should be made 3-5 days after the 1st application. In irregular growth fields, a 3rd contact application may be necessary.

For C₈-C₁₀ fatty alcohol products, a 4% concentration is recommended for the 1st application. A 4% concentration translates to 2 gallons of product in 48 gallons of water per acre. For C₈-C₁₀ fatty alcohol products, a 5% concentration is recommended for the 2nd (and possibly 3rd) application. A 5% concentration translates to 2 ½ gallons of product in 47 ½ gallons of water per acre.

For C₁₀ fatty alcohol products, a 3% concentration is recommended for the 1st application. A 3% concentration translates to 1 ½ gallons of product in 48 ½ gallons of water per acre. For C₁₀ fatty alcohol products, a 3% concentration is also recommended for the 2nd (and possibly 3rd) application.

Local Systemic/Systemic Sucker Control

If your tobacco is “ready” for the Prime+/MH tankmix application but the tobacco is drought-stressed or you plan to harvest within 7 days of application, apply the Prime+ alone. Apply the MH once environmental conditions improve or after 1st harvest.

This approach will improve MH performance and reduce MH residues as well.
Insect Control

The following table is taken from 2008 Flue-Cured Tobacco Guide Page 196. Please remember Warrior should not be applied within 40 days of harvest.

PEANUTS

Early Postemergence Grass/Weed Control

Paraquat (Firestorm, Parazone, or Gramoxone) + Basagran represents a broad-spectrum early postemergence grass/weed control option. This treatment can be made from peanut ground cracking to 28 days after ground cracking. For best results, grass and weeds should be 2 inches or less. This treatment also “fits” in a herbicide resistance management program.

FARM BILL

Title I – Commodity Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill consists of 14 titles (sections). Enclosed in this newsletter is a Title I – Commodity Programs fact sheet. This as well as other title fact sheets can be found at http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/Farm Bill.html

Disclaimer: The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

COTTON

Boll Weevil Assessment

The 2008 boll weevil assessment fee will be $1.25 per acre. For the 2008 growing season, 1 trap per 160 acres of cotton will be monitored. To allow for trapping and monitoring, cotton growers are required to certify cotton acreage with FSA by July 1.

Curtis D. Fountain
Extension Agent
Agriculture – Field Crops