



# WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## General

**The Order Does Matter** - *Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; [mjv@udel.edu](mailto:mjv@udel.edu)*

Tank-mixing more than one pesticide is happening more frequently, particularly as we have to deal with herbicide resistant weeds. So I thought it might be time to send out a reminder about the order that the pesticides go into the tank. Putting chemicals in the tank in the wrong order can result in the chemicals forming a "gunky mess" in the bottom of the tank. Sometimes the pesticides will settle out (form gunk) even when the proper order is followed, in which case a compatibility agent is needed. The order of putting pesticides in the tank is based on the formulation. The general order for mixing is as follows:

1. Compatibility agent (if needed)
2. Products in water soluble PVA bags (wait until they fully dissolve before continuing)
3. Wettable powders (first mixed with water in a bucket to form a slurry)
4. Dry flowables or water dispersible granules
5. Liquids (these are the true liquids, they do not turn the solution white when added to water)
6. Emulsifiable concentrates (these do turn white when added to water) - this includes crop oil concentrate and methylated seed oil
7. Water-soluble additives (such as dry and liquid fertilizers, i.e. ammonium sulfate or UAN)

Some pesticides may suggest a different order

for mixing, so refer to the label. Each type of formulation should be added and allowed to agitate for a few minutes before adding the next formulation. To further reduce chance of incompatibility, mix each pesticide with water prior to adding to the tank.

To check if a compatibility agent is needed prior to adding pesticides in the tank, use a jar test. Use a pint or quart jar and fill half full of the carrier (water or fertilizer). Calculate the proportion of each ingredient (i.e. water, liquid fertilizer, pesticides) to add to the jar. The proportions should be the same as will be added to the spray tank. Assuming spray volume is 25 gallons per acre, a dry formulated pesticide applied to a pint jar at 1½ teaspoons is the same as 1 lb/A. Likewise, a liquid formulation at ½ teaspoon in a pint jar is the same as 1 pint/A. Add the appropriate pesticides separately in the above order and shake the jar gently between pesticides. After all has been added, fill the jar with water, and give a final shaking. Let the jar set for about 10 minutes and look for the formation of large flakes, sludge, gels, or precipitates. This test could be run with two jars, one with a compatibility agent and one without. A compatibility agent added to a pint jar at ¼ teaspoon is the same as 2 pints per 100 gallons of carrier.

If your tank does end up with incompatible pesticides gunking up the bottom, try Dawn dish detergent. I have not done this myself but was told it was effective. Mixing Dawn (Dawn supposedly works better than all other dish detergents) with the water will re-suspend the

incompatible pesticides. It is difficult to say how much Dawn to add, but start with a quart and add more if needed.

## Agronomic Crops

**Soybean Rust Update** - Bob Mulrooney,  
Extension Plant Pathologist; [bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu)

The cold winter extended deep into the South, and kudzu was killed back in most sites and is only now re-growing in Florida and the other Gulf States. No soybean rust has been observed on kudzu at this time. Soybean sentinel monitoring sites are being planted at this time in FL, MS, LA, and AL.

Funding for the ipmPIPE sentinel plots was reduced for this season and only the states in the South are receiving funds to continue the sentinel plots. Tier 3 states which include DE were not funded this year. I will be establishing one sentinel plot at the REC near Georgetown, DE. With our past history, the presence of scouting to our south and the availability of soybean information on the ipmPIPE website, I think we will be able to respond in a timely fashion if rust should become a threat in 2010. If the situation should change later in the season, soybean production fields can and will be monitored as part of my Extension responsibilities.

Just to clarify, the Soybean Rust ipmPIPE website will continue to operate and information for the US will continue to be posted for everyone to see. Delaware will be posting information on the national site for our growers as well as communicating to you through Weekly Crop Update. We will be operating one soybean sentinel plot in 2010. The soybean aphid monitoring program is being retired and will not be available in 2010.

**Scout Barley for Disease** - Bob Mulrooney,  
Extension Plant Pathologist; [bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu)

Scouting barley regularly is important to monitor for diseases such as powdery mildew and spot blotch, especially in 'Thoroughbred'. This

variety has great yield potential but is very susceptible to powdery mildew and the disease has been yield limiting. Fungicide applications may be warranted if enough disease is present and yield potential is high. Most other varieties would not likely respond to fungicide control of powdery mildew and/or spot blotch unless disease occurrence was very high.

**Grain Marketing Highlights** - Carl German,  
Extension Crops Marketing Specialist;  
[clgerman@udel.edu](mailto:clgerman@udel.edu)

### 2010 U.S. Corn Planting Gets Underway; Time to do Some 'Strategic' Planning

The beginning of every cropping season should include some forward thinking as related to forming marketing strategies. This is necessary due to the fact that we are making grain and oilseed sales decisions based upon the use of a futures market. Toward that end, the grain seller needs to establish some benchmarks as to where we are and where we might be going. Monday marked the first issuance of the weekly crop progress report for the 2010 row crop growing season. In that report we got our first look at U.S. corn planting progress for the 2010 crop year. The eighteen states that planted 92% of last year's corn crop were 3% planted as of April 11, 1% behind last year. Early reports indicate that we are likely to see the pace of planting progress ratchet up considerably next week. Here is where the forward thinking (some might call market planning) comes in, partly based upon the idea that getting this year's corn crop in the ground doesn't look to be a problem. U. S. farmers are expected to plant 88.8 million acres of corn which would result in roughly 78 million acres harvested. Assuming a yield of 160 bushels per acre equates to an estimated production of near 12.5 billion bushels. With carry-in estimated at 1.899 billion bushels and imports at 10 million bushels gives a total supply of approximately 14.49 billion bushels for the '10/'11 marketing year. With total use projections estimated at 12.9 to 13.0 billion bushels, ending stocks for the next marketing year begin to draw down from the estimate for the current ('09/'10) marketing year, projecting at 1.49 to 1.59 billion bushels. Of course these are to be considered preliminary, rough

estimates. However, for the moment these numbers suggest holding up on getting more aggressive in making new crop 2010 corn sales. Further, world use of corn is projected to be record larger for '09/'10 at 31.88 billion bushels while world ending stocks projected at 140.15 MMT are smaller than last year's 146.40 MMT. On May 11 USDA will release their next monthly supply/demand report. We will be watching the '09/'10 carry out (ending stocks) projections for U.S. and world corn very closely.

#### **CME Group Announces Launch of Distillers' Dried Grain Contracts**

In February, CME Group announced the launch of Distillers' Dried Grain agricultural commodity futures contracts scheduled to begin trading next week on April 26. Distillers' Dried Grains, a by-product of corn produced ethanol, is used for animal feed, including livestock and dairy cows. The electronically traded and physically delivered futures contracts can be used by livestock and ethanol producers, commercial corn interests and others to lock in the price of feed or to hedge their ethanol refining margin in combination with corn, natural gas, and ethanol futures. Each Distiller Dried Grain Contract is equivalent to 100 short tons of Distillers' Dried Grains. Deliverable grades must include a minimum of 26% protein, 8% fat, 12% fiber, and 11.5% moisture content. For more information on Distillers' Dried Grain futures go to [www.cmegroup.com/ddg](http://www.cmegroup.com/ddg).

#### **Market Strategy**

The spreads in the respective futures contracts indicate that things may be turning more bearish for soybeans and wheat with the corn spreads indicating a more neutral situation, another indication to hold up on making new crop corn sales. Currently, Dec '10 corn futures are trading at \$3.90 per bushel; Nov '10 soybeans at \$9.45 per bushel; with July '10 SRW wheat futures trading at \$4.88 per bushel.

For technical assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist.

## Announcements

### **Is It Arthritis or...Is It Lyme Disease? Arthritis and Farming Workshop**

Friday, April 30, 2010 7:30 a.m. – noon

MAC Center  
909 Progress Circle  
Salisbury, MD

Expert Speakers

*Medical, arthritis and technology experts and a physical therapist.*

Keynote Speaker:

*Amber Wolfe with Indiana Arthritis Foundation and National AgrAbility Project*

Health Screenings & Health Fair

*Bone Density, Balance, Blood Pressure, Skin, Flexibility and more...*

Lunch Provided

*Please pre-register by calling the Wicomico Extension Office at (410) 749-6141 or AgrAbility toll free number at 877-204-FARM.*

#### **Planning Partners:**

Mid-Atlantic AgrAbility Project  
Wicomico County Extension  
MAC Center  
Health South

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### **Free Tour of Horse Barn Facilities at University of Delaware**

Monday, April 19, 2010 6:00 p.m.

508 South Chapel Street, Newark, DE

The following individuals will be hosting the barn tour and available to answer visitor questions:

Dr. Carissa Wickens,

*Assistant Professor of Equine Science*

Susan Truehart Garey

*Extension Agent*

Dr. Richard Taylor

*Extension Agronomy Specialist*

Anna Stoops

*Cooperative Extension Educator*

*For information or to register, call Stan Vonasek (302) 684-3966.*

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# Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of April 8 to April 14, 2010

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

## Rainfall:

0.59 inch: April 9

0.04 inch: April 13

## Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 81°F on April 8 to 56°F on April 13.

Lows ranged from 67°F on April 8 to 38°F on April 14.

## Soil Temperature:

59.4°F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at  
[http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly\\_retrieval.html](http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly_retrieval.html)  
and  
<http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

*Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by  
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Crops*

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