



DeltAg Product Brief
June 14, 2013

Cold & Wet Spring..... Focus on Roots

This spring it seems that just about everyone has experienced seedling stress from cold weather, excess rains, high winds, pesticide injury and even hail. While some finally have corn starting to tassel others are still trying to get planted.

The key to this crop is going to be a healthy root system. A lot of our crops look good on top but not so good underneath the soil. When a crop gets a wet start and especially a cold weather start, we see a slow growing seedling crop but out of sight is a poorly developed root system. Dry-warmer weather is what seedling crops will need to help drive those roots deeper for moisture to create mid-to late season drought tolerance. Otherwise we get a heavy fruit load with an inferior root system to support it.

While some might disagree, having access to irrigation and watering too soon could further delay root development. A seedling crop really needs to suffer just a little for water so it will develop better roots. Thus when fruit set is heavy and the weather gets hot and dry, the crop will hold up better. The weaker the root system, the more we depend on rainfall or irrigation. Additionally, if we water too early, we will hamper root development and create reduced drought resistance and the need for more water later.

We have received a huge volume of calls about crops with a weak or shallow root system. Here we recommend an application of **PercPlus** at 24 Oz per acre. This can be in with a herbicide application and does a great job.

On another note, there is something to be said for allowing the crop to recover from stress BEFORE applying herbicides that could actually set the crop back even further. That being said, we also recognize that big weeds are harder to kill. We must find a balance between good weed control and maintaining a healthy crop. If conditions warrant, we recommend **PercPlus** alone, but to be repeated 7-10 days later along with the herbicides.

Reminder: **Boron Plus** is an excellent tool when crops are flowering heavily and fruit-shed is a concern, while for crops that are sizing fruits, **CropKarb** at 32 Oz per acre is an excellent product. **CropKarb** may also be applied with your insecticide or fungicide.

For more information or to receive **DeltAg Product Briefs**,
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