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Dry Weather Here... Wet Weather There And Manganese Issues to Boot

DeltAg Product Brief
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Dry Soils: With some areas of the Southeast being hit with dry weather, many have begun to irrigate. In many fields, irrigation is not an option. What can we do to help these dry land crops?

When a plant's root system has extracted all the moisture it is in contact with, to receive additional moisture without rain or irrigation, the roots must continue to grow into areas of the soil profile that still have moisture. When moving into a reproductive stage, especially with limited moisture, the root system becomes very inactive. So in dry conditions, we must keep the root system active, growing and expanding. If we stimulate the root system, the plant will absorb additional water. With root growth comes more root surface exposure to more soil, which means access to more moisture.

At *DeltAg*, we have many growers that have utilized either an application of *PercPlus* or foliar urea mid-season to help the crop. We had one very successful situation three years ago where one gallon of foliar urea and 8 ounces of *PercPlus* were applied every week on cotton for multiple weekly applications with no rain from late May until August 1st. The crop was very successful. In soybeans, peanuts, etc. we recommend *PercPlus* @ 24 ounces per acre foliar in one application. In corn or cotton, we tend to recommend a lighter dose of *PercPlus*, and if available, tank-mixed with foliar urea in case multiple applications are needed. If you are irrigating, this application will not improve the root system enough for justification. In dry land crops, it can make the difference in how your crops respond when rain does come. Truth is, if we receive rains within 14 to 21 days, we will have helped the crop in a very big way.

Wet Soils: Other areas are saturated and crops are becoming very vegetative. In this situation, *DeltAg* recommends foliar applications of *Boron Plus* at 4 to 6 ounces per acre. This application has been shown to be very effective with heavy rains during heavy bloom stages in cotton and soybeans. It is especially beneficial on a blooming crop that is stressed from lack of water and furrow irrigation is about to be initiated.

Manganese Deficient Corn at Mid-Season: In the past ten days, we have received calls and photos from Tennessee, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas ... all the same ... severe symptoms of what appears to be manganese deficient corn at tasseling. What's the deal? I expect there will be more as the season progresses. While *PercPlus*, tank-mixed with glyphosate, helps avoid manganese deficiencies in seedling soybeans as well as avoiding zinc and magnesium deficiencies in seedling corn, it does not appear to ward off mid-season manganese deficiencies in corn. Most of us have now experienced the use of one application of *PercPlus* and/or *Manganese Plus* in soybeans to correct this problem. Not so in Corn! This problem is showing up, not in seedling stages like soybeans but actually at or after tasseling. This makes correction much more difficult. We have made two applications on seven day intervals of *Manganese Plus* at 32 Oz, *Zinc Plus* @ 8 Oz, *PercPlus* @ 12 Oz and even added a gallon of foliar urea where available. While we have seen excellent recovery in some fields, we are still monitoring what appears to be slow recovery (we hope) in others. Believe me when I say this is a tough situation at a very critical stage in crop development. If you are seeing these symptoms, I can only advise you to encourage your grower to not delay. In speaking with several corn experts from the Midwest who have dealt with this problem in recent years, we are being advised with future crops, to make *Manganese Plus* applications 8 to 10 days AFTER glyphosate applications, even when the corn crop appears to be healthy.



Severely Manganese Deficient Corn at Tasseling



Manganese Deficient Soybeans

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