

The Headlands Quarterly

March 2022

Are You Ready?

As I sit and put together this month's issue, we have about 30 days until corn can go into the ground, that is if I'm watching the calendar and disregarding soil conditions. I'm sure I don't need to add any stress on the importance of getting equipment ready, but the reality is we only have so many working hours to be prepared for some of the most important weeks of the season... spring planting. All the excel docs, whiteboard plans, FieldView notes, and napkin scribbles get pulled together for the start of #plant22. In this issue I wanted to highlight several items to help you prep for in the cab data capture as well as product placement. In the agronomy section I highlight the importance of Temperature and Moisture in the first 48 hours after placing seed in the soil. Although these can seem to be fairly basic to a veteran corn producer it's always good to remind ourselves about the critical role they play in the seeds' potential from day one.



Next Stop, Your Field...

Seed Pick-Up & Delivery

Integrated into the Circle H service, I will be planning to make seed deliveries during the month of March. Except for a few units, all seed has been shipped into the warehouse and I'll work to create and stage your seed order. In the coming weeks I will reach out to see if you would like to take delivery of your units. If you prefer to pick-up at my site closer to planting that is fine with the option of loading by bulk or bag.

Product Placement

The Channel seed brand has several resources for product placement; printed seed guide, online product guide, and of course giving me a call. From pre-commercial testing to five-year-old hybrids there is a lot of time spent on finding where a particular product excels and where it may be challenged. Over the next 30 days reach out and let's make sure we have your product placed for its best performance. To help with this I will send a placement placard with each hybrid that goes out the door.

Hybrid Specific Seeding Rates

I really can't discuss product placement without interjecting about seeding rates. There are a couple ways to determine what the correct amount will be. Found within the placement placard I will categorize the ear type and from there provide a general recommendation of Low - High populations. Use these ranges to adjust from your average population rate in a particular field. Another option is by going to www.channel.com and click on Population Optimizer under the "Tools" tab. Here you will be able to input your Channel Hybrid, Unit Cost, Grain Price, and Yield Environment into the model. This model pulls from a local data base where each hybrid was tested at five different seeding rates to build an optimal planting rate visualized through a curve with different yield targets. This recommendation uses more of an algorithm approach. If you have questions on this method, please reach out.

Placard Example

201-14 VT2P 

- 101-102 RM
- Above ground only protection
- Determinate ear – Med. to Med.-High plant pops.
- Racehorse product/positioning w/excellent emergence & vigor
- Avoid using a **Plant Growth Regulator** herbicide with this hybrid

SEEDSMANSHIP AT WORK Channel

FieldView Cab Updates

As your local seedsman I will be fully supporting the Climate FieldView platform and hardware needs. If this has been your go-to source for data capture, field analysis, and/or prescriptions please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. Just as one would prep the planter for spring it is also good to make sure the FieldView Cab app is up to date. To get started, follow these steps below.



Update your iPad to latest iOS (Needs to be at least iOS 12.1)
Update FieldView Cab App to newest version
App Store > CabApp> Update

Pre-load Hybrids/Seed Treatments/Applications
Note: It's best to delete out old hybrids/products no longer using
To Add New
CabApp > Settings > Hybrids
CabApp > Settings > Seed Treatments
CabApp > Settings > Applications

Add/Verify Grower Equipment – If you have updated a tractor or planter from last season make sure this completed.
CabApp > Equipment

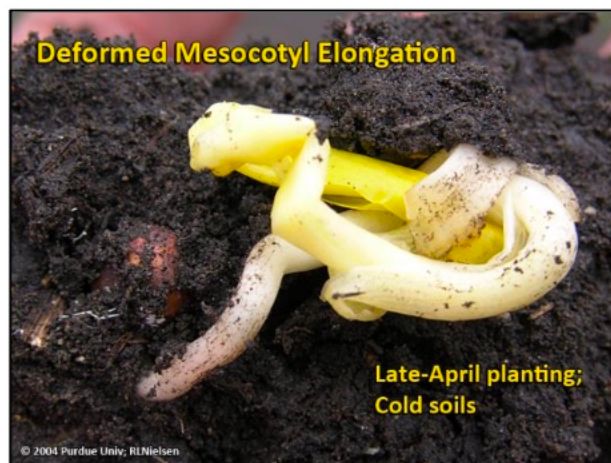


For How-To video on this check out FieldView's YouTube Channel – Featured Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SGGf62Aw74>

Agronomic Update

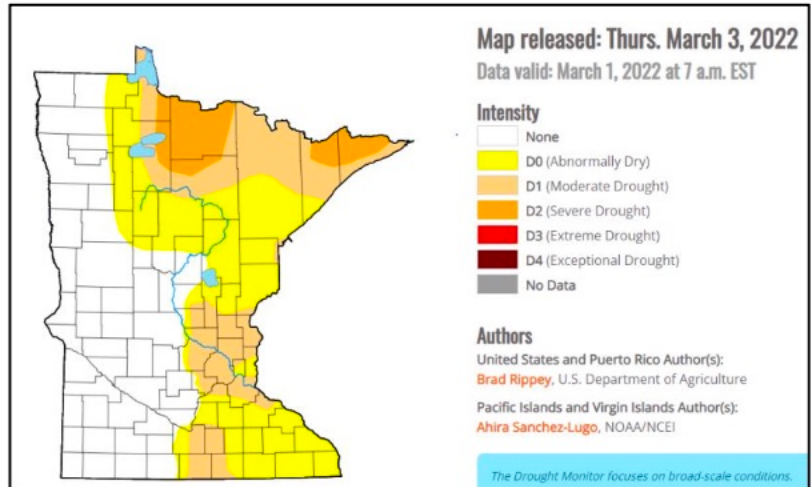
The First 48hrs...

As we roll into spring, there are a hundred different items I could focus on in this agronomy section, but the reality is none of them will be as important as a successful early season stand of corn. I'm sure I won't be the only one to discuss this as there are many good sources out there, but I thought I would share some of the things I've observed over the years from walking fields. In those first 24-48 hrs of the seed being placed into the furrow there are two things that will dictate what your field looks like 30 days later... Moisture and Temperature. Both are critical as individual factors, but to get the ideal window for both is the result of many different components in any particular field.



March 2022

Moisture – It takes roughly 30% of the corn kernels weight in water to start the germination process or what can be referred to as “imbibing water”. So, how do we make sure we have enough to start the process? The easy answer is having Mother Nature cooperate but really it comes down to prepping the seed bed in a way that doesn’t create excessive drying or unevenness at the 1.5” – 3” depth. Not all fields are created equal, varying soil types play a big role especially ones that contain a higher clay content and organic matter percentage. Another factor of available moisture is residue cover. Over the years I have seen how poorly distributed residue will wick away the tiny amount needed to start germination. As of Thursday, March 3rd the MN Drought Monitor does not have our area in any of the D Intensity categories versus the eastern part of the state being considered “Abnormally & Moderate” levels of Drought. Because of what we had for moisture late last fall we find ourselves in a pretty good position, but it is something to keep in mind as we go into spring.



Temperature – Oh man, this is a contentious one... We all have our threshold on when we feel the soil is at the right temperature to plant. Not too long ago we seemed to be more unified on when this ideal number was met but now with Carhartt’s and in-cab heated seats we easily forget what the seed is being placed into. Luckily the corn plant physiology has not changed, it still requires a baseline of 50°F to initiate germination. The greatest risk with cooler than 50°F soil temps is imbibitional chilling which can be influenced by; consecutive days at cooler temps, soil moisture (wet soils aren’t as dramatic in temp changes), residue cover, and seed quality. More often than not, planting early in marginal temps is better than waiting to only push it later on but we must consider what we are gaining for heat units. Ask yourself, what does the next 3-5 days look like, what are the high and low temperatures? It takes 115-120 growing degree heat units for corn to emerge. If I look back at the last 3 years of GDU accumulation for our local area, we accumulated an average of 75 GDU’s from April 11 – May 1st. During this same time frame over a 30-year average we are at 116 GDU’s. This data set would suggest that in our northern growing environments our corn has the potential to sit in furrow/below soil surface for an average of 20 days and in some cases up to 30 days. With these things in mind, we need to think about what hybrids have the strongest vigor rating based on genetic background and place those towards the front of our planting window.

With a lengthy PowerPoint or research report both topics could be expanded upon, but for the sake of a multi-page newsletter I simply wanted to focus on the two main components that set the stage for any given products performance. Lastly, I comment by saying that only you as an operator of your farm understand what needs to get accomplished with the short window of time we have. As an agronomist I won’t stand between you and the planter but can only bring attention to the basics of early season growth and development of a corn plant. As always call with questions and may your spring planting be a safe and prosperous one.

Greg Haubrich
CCA

Sources:

U2U Decision Support Tools – Corn GDD. Useful to Usable. https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/purdue_gdd (accessed March 2022)

Minnesota Drought Map – U.S. Drought Monitor. <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?MN> (accessed March 2022)