

NEWSLETTER
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Proper Fertility Can Save Money

Water availability is the primary yield factor in crop production and fertility is secondary. Knowing this, we look at long range weather forecasts to help make production goals and crop management budgets. Current forecasts show expected 1-3 month rainfall totals to be below average and many crop producers are looking for ways to trim their budgets.

One way to reduce the risk of crop production is to use fertilizers at rates that more accurately fit the crop and soil requirements. Fertilizing at rates above crop demand is wasteful and an unnecessary expense. Using rates below crop demand can limit crop yield and reduce profits.

Current recommendations for crop production recommend testing soils annually to determine proper fertilizer rates. While normal soil testing is done by sampling from the top six inches of the soil, recent research in cotton and corn indicate that the plant can use nitrogen found at depths below six inches. By sampling the top six inches for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and micronutrients and then sampling from 6-12, 18 or even 24 inches for nitrogen, research has shown the nitrogen found at lower depths can be credited to the amount of soil nitrogen. Then the rate of nitrogen added to the fertilizer application can be reduced, saving unnecessary application costs without reducing yield potential.

Private Pesticide Applicator License Training

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Calhoun County will offer pesticide applicator training and testing needed to obtain a Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide applicators license. The training will be offered February 21, 2012 @ 8:30 AM in the Extension Building, 186 CR 101 in the Auditorium, Port Lavaca, Texas.

A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state-limited use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for pesticide application.

To participate, you must RSVP no later than Thursday, February 16, 2012 by calling the extension office @ 361-552-9747 to make your reservation and pay a \$50 fee for training materials and the course.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any education meetings. Please contact us and advise what auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of the training.

Educational programs conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

New Bt Cotton Product from Bayer CropScience

Bayer CropScience has received EPA registration for their TwinLink® technology for cotton. According to the companies' press release:

“TwinLink technology combines insect-resistance for effective management of a number of lepidopteran pests (caterpillars) and tolerance to glufosinate-ammonium herbicides (Liberty®). When commercialized, TwinLink technology will be offered to US cotton growers as a stack with GlyTol®, the company's proprietary glyphosate tolerance technology.”

“TwinLink and GlyTol stacked traits will be available in the US from 2013 onwards, pending additional regulatory approvals in key import countries.”

Cotton Root Rot Fungicide Section 18 Approved

The fungicide flutriafol sold by the trade name TOPGUARD® Fungicide has received approval for use in cotton to control cotton root rot caused by *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*. The Section 18 states:

“TOPGUARD® Fungicide may be applied by ground equipment at planting either banded into or incorporated into the furrow at planting. The maximum rate for each application is 2.0 pints of formulated product per acre (0.26 lbs at/A). No more than one application is permitted each year.”

Below is an excerpt from the TOPGUARD® Fungicide Section 18 Exemption Label:

RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS
For use in cotton to control cotton root rot (<i>Phymatotrichopsis omnivora</i>).
Rate per acre: 16-32 fluid ounces
Use Directions: Apply TOPGUARD® Fungicide concentrated in an approximately 5 inch wide T-band at planting. An 80 degree even flat fan nozzle should be approximately 3 inches above the soil to achieve a 5 inch band. A T-band is applied perpendicular to the row direction after furrow opening and seed placement, but before furrow closure. The application resembles a “T” in cross section, as part of the spray enters the furrow, while the rest forms a band on either side of the furrow. Some mixing of TOPGUARD® Fungicide with the soil is expected during furrow closing. This product must be activated by rainfall or irrigation. Irrigation methods such as drip or furrow may not adequately wet the treated zone under dry conditions.
Restrictions: Apply only as an at-planting T-band. Do not enter treated fields for 12 hours after application. Do not make more than one application of flutriafol containing products to cotton per season. Do not apply more than 0.26 pounds of the active ingredient flutriafol to cotton per acre per season. Treated fields may be rotated to cotton or any labeled crop at any time or may be rotated to sweet corn 180 days after application; rotation to any other crop is prohibited.

Interesting facts

I have often wondered about why an acre is 43,560 ft² and a mile is 5280 ft. Why aren't they a more round number like 45,000 ft² and 5000 ft? The answer lies in when they originated. At the time these measurements were determined, the common length of measure was the furlong and chain.

A chain measures 66 feet and a furlong is 10 chains or, 660 feet. An acre is one furlong by one chain, or 66 ft by 660 ft (66 x 660 = 43,560) and a mile is 8 furlongs (660 x 8 = 5280).