



Topdressing Wheat and Barley

We are rapidly approaching Growth Stage 30 on our cereals. The GDU calendar shows the season about three weeks ahead of “average”.

To date, most cereal fields have had weed and ryegrass control materials applied, along with fall nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulfur and a winter application of nitrogen, manganese and sulfur. Depending on previous crop and soil residual (litter, manure, sludge, sludge pellets), total fall and winter nitrogen rates already applied range from 60 to 90 lbs. /acre.

We recommended manganese with the winter topdress as we saw manganese deficiencies appearing early. We don't understand why the manganese problems are showing in the cereal crops. It may be variety sensitivity, heavy use of Roundup, environmental conditions, soil pH or a combination of all but manganese is clearly a problem, especially with lighter, sandy soils. Manganese is a problem because deficiencies will prevent the plant from utilizing available nitrogen which is why plants, especially barley, can be stunted. It also causes an imbalance with potash so wheat can go limp with manganese deficiencies. We are recommending 1 to 3 qts. /acre of 5% chelated manganese with the topdress nitrogen.

Taking a plant tissue sample at GS30 Zadocks (GS5 Feekes) will give an indication of the amount of nitrogen needed to finish this crop. The plant tissue sample gives a status report for other nutrients. We have already made recommendations for zinc in addition to manganese and sulfur.

We have found adult cereal leaf beetle feeding and Septoria lesions down low. We did find one field (not a USG variety) with powdery mildew. Our recommendation is to add a fungicide (Headline or Quadris) at 4 ozs./acre to stop these early diseases with the topdress nitrogen. We also recommend 1.5 ozs. /acre of Karate or 2 ozs. /acre of Baythroid to stop cereal leaf beetles, aphids, Hessian fly and armyworms. Applying this insecticide much before GS 30 has provided inconsistent results.

If you have any questions about your USG wheat or if we can help, please call Renwood Farms agronomist Paul Bodenshtine at 804-314-7463. Thank you for planting USG wheat from Renwood Farms.



Sulfur deficiency in 2012 wheat



Septoria lesion in 2012 wheat



Manganese deficiency in 2012 wheat