

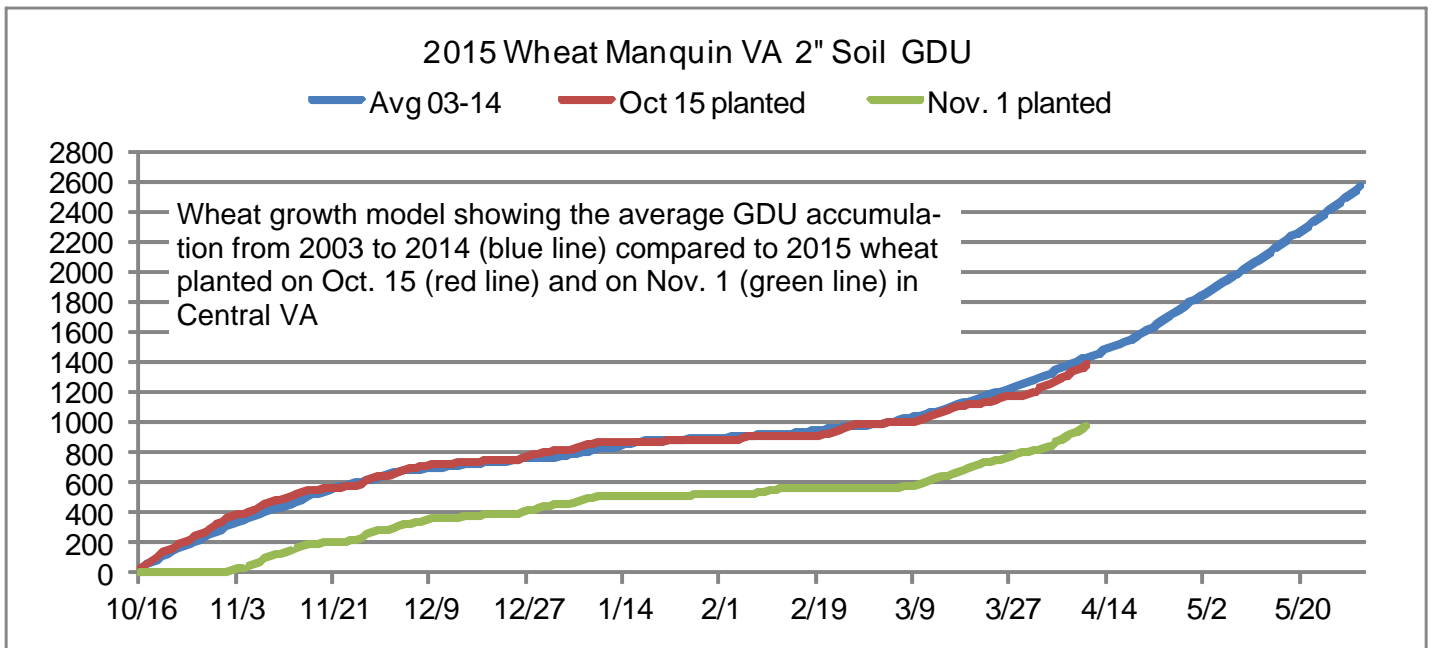
2015 Wheat Update: Spring Topdress

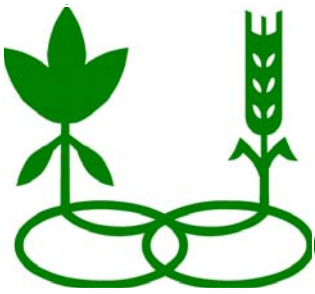
We are rapidly approaching Growth Stage 30 (GS30 in Zadocks : GS5 in Feekes) on our cereals. It is at this stage that the last nitrogen application is made to supply the cereal crop with the nutrients needed to produce stems, heads and kernels.

The GDU model, shown below, shows the 2015 wheat crop, planted on Oct. 15, has accumulated about the "average" number of GDU that we have measured since 2003 and is right on schedule. When wheat reaches between 1200 (late planted) and 1400 (early planted) GDU, joints will start to form on wheat. Once we get to a certain amount of daylength, wheat will joint regardless of GDU accumulation.

Cutting the wheat about 1/2" above the soil line and turning upside down will show the holes indicating the head has moved above the soil line and jointing is beginning (see top photo). Once the plant has jointed, wheat will not recover from wheel tracks so nitrogen applications will have to be made on a timely basis to fields without tramlines to avoid trampling plants.

A plant tissue/leaf sample now will determine how much more nitrogen is needed to produce the crop. Too much nitrogen is costly, can cause wheat to lodge and is environmentally unacceptable. Too little nitrogen produces fewer harvestable tillers, smaller heads and fewer kernels. Nitrogen rates range from 40 to 80 lbs. /acre at this stage.





2015 Wheat Update: Spring Topdress

Renwood Farms

Jeff Hula, Customer Service and Sales
Office: (804) 829-2450
Cell: (804) 385-6843

Paul Bodenshteyn, agronomist
(804) 314-7463

Call us today! Renwood Farms has excellent soybean varieties available: RenPro Plus seed treatments too!

Low Zinc, Mildew and Septoria Present

Plant tissue samples can identify other nutrients that may be limiting yields. Sulfur, manganese, boron and zinc are the most frequent elements that test low. Applications of these nutrients will still impact yields.

Based on previous years' samples, Renwood Farms starting offering zinc as a wheat/barley seed treatment. According to VA Tech (Hawkins, 1972), adding zinc on the seed or in the seed furrow is the most efficient way to correct zinc issues. There are zinc deficiencies showing up in wheat (shown on page 1) and in many cases, zinc will be added to the topdress. Zinc will also help with manganese deficiencies.

Add either **Headline®** or **Quadris®** with the topdress nitrogen. Barley scald and leaf blotch are present in some fields as are powdery mildew and septoria in wheat. Stop diseases early. Plants fighting disease infections will move energy away from developing seeds.

Usually we find cereal leaf beetle adults flying and laying eggs in the first week of April. Since these adults emerge before most beneficial insects emerge, add **Karate®** to the topdress. This will stop cereal leaf beetle eggs and larvae, aphids, armyworms and Hessian fly. Caution: do not apply insecticides before GS30/ GS5 for season-long control. It just will not last that long.

Palisade EC: growers have a lot of questions about this growth regulator. For the record, it goes out at 12.8 ozs. / acre between GS30 and 31. The label says no more than 50/50 water/ nitrogen solution. No limit to how much nitrogen but it does say 50/50. Many growers are adding to nitrogen or nitrogen /sulfur solutions without adding water and living with the leaf burn.

There was little difference in height in our plots in 2014, which was not a big lodging year and no difference in yield.

April, 2015



We still are testing this material to see where it fits but it looks promising especially where litter/ manure/ sludge has been/ is being used.