



# WHEAT & BARLEY FALL 2010

## July 2011 Wheat Prices Soar

July 2011 prices on the CBOT have gained a lot of attention since they hit bottom on June 11th. The climb of \$.60 per bushel since then has been attributed to dry weather in Russia and wet weather in Canada, along with other non-production issues. Growers forward pricing next year's wheat are reporting prices around \$6.00 per bushel.

The demand for soft red winter wheat in the Mid-Atlantic has been robust. The basis for wheat in NC has been strong and at least one elevator in Virginia is offering free drying for wheat under 20% moisture.

Our average return to variable costs for wheat has been between 25% and 35% but with today's prices, we can lock in a **70% return to variable costs** at 80 bu. /acre yield and a 50% return at 70 bu. /acre.

Added to this situation is the value for storing wheat due to unusual circumstances. March, 2012 CBOT wheat is trading at \$1.40 premium to July, 2011.

With the drought many of us have experienced in 2010, producing a successful wheat and barley will be valuable by increasing farm cash flow.

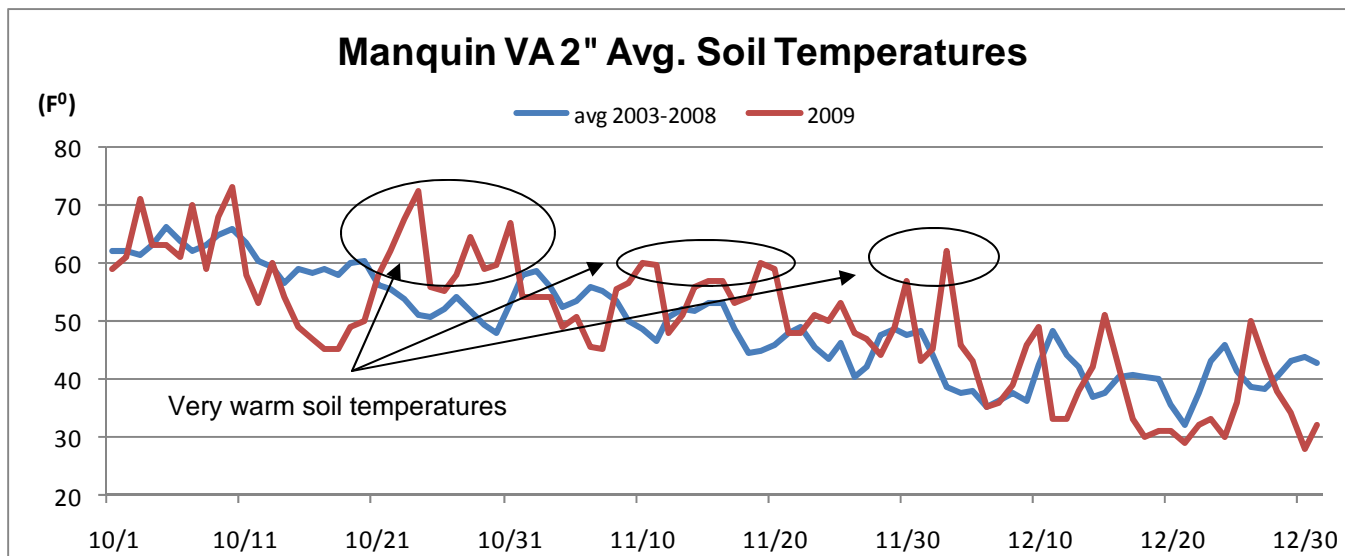
## What Happened to Wheat & Barley in 2010?

The best time to plant wheat and barley is when the average 2" soil temperature is between 50<sup>o</sup> and 60<sup>o</sup> F. Using this as a guideline, the best time to plant in Central VA is approximately between October 12th and November 12th. This is because certain root diseases are very active when soil temperatures are above 60<sup>o</sup> F. In 2009, soil temperatures stayed very warm through November (see graph).

This provided an optimum environment for diseases to infect seedlings. The wet fall didn't help. These diseases weakened roots. The hot, dry weather in April and May damaged or killed plants that were between flag leaf emergence and heading during this period.

See page three for seed treatment solutions to this problem.

**Manquin VA 2" Avg. Soil Temperatures**



## WHEAT & BARLEY FALL 2010

### Wheat & Barley Varieties

Initial germination reports from Renwood Farms seed production are all testing 90% or better. In spite of a difficult growing season, Renwood is again able to provide high-germ, high-quality and disease-free cereal seed to our growers.

**Scab Tolerance:** all wheat varieties selected for production by Renwood are first screened for **tolerance to scab**. There is a significant difference between varieties for scab tolerance and while we do not get scab every year, it can be a major cause of low yields, low test weight and vomitoxin. A major disaster can be avoided by selecting a variety with tolerance to scab.

**Planting Window:** while the planting window for wheat is about 30 days, no one variety has a single planting window wider than ten days. Wheat varieties are ranked by their photosensitivity to light in the table below. Varieties very photosensitive to light need to be planted early to develop tillers prior to going into “dormancy” (between Dec 1 and Feb. 1). These are considered “Group 1” wheat varieties and are planted in the first part of the 30-day planting window.

This allows growers to start planting early but prevents spring freeze damage when we have warm winters. Basically, if a grower is planting many acres of Thoroughbred barley, it is hard to plant a Group 1 wheat since the optimum planting window is identical.

On the opposite end, the “Group 4” wheat varieties are not photosensitive to light and will grow in winter if temperatures are warm enough. These varieties are planted at the end of the planting window. Planting these varieties too early will expose the wheat to late winter/early spring freezes.

#### **Barley Variety & Description**

- **Thoroughbred:** Outstanding yields, full season to avoid late winter freezes; awned, six-row hulled barley having very good straw strength, high test weight and bright plump seed; Since it is moderately susceptible to leaf rust and net blotch, this variety usually responds to a fungicide.

#### **Wheat Varieties & Description** (in order of planting)

- **Roane:** Late maturity, awnletted, high yields, exceptional test weight, great for straw, outstanding tolerance to scab and BYD, moderate tolerance to WSSMV and SBMV, very day-length sensitive
- **USG 3665:** Medium maturity, good test weight, moderate tolerance to scab, rust, WSSMV and SBMV: Top yields in VA Tech State Trials three year avg.
- **Coker 9436:** a late-heading wheat for early planting; a strong tillering plant that allows for lower seeding rates: good for fields prone to geese damage; avoid soils with spindle streak
- **USG 3315:** *New for 2011!* Our best defensive wheat without giving up high yields. Strong against soil viruses, rusts, scab, mildew, glume blotch and septoria
- **USG 3251:** *New for 2011!* It's all about yields with this variety. Nice beard for reducing deer pressure. Above average resistance on leaf blotch, mildew and leaf rust.
- **Merle:** A new release from VA Tech; good parents (Roane/2643/520): produced yields equal to Shirley plus averaged 2.6 lbs. higher test weight than Shirley in VT three-year trials; has better scab tolerance than Shirley
- **USG 3555:** Early maturity, short plant height, tolerance to mildew and rust, good scab tolerance; has a beard on the top third of the head. Top yields in VA Tech State Trials three year avg.
- **Jamestown:** Similar maturity and yields to SS 520 (early harvest) but with much better scab tolerance and test weight; a nice beard, good overall virus and disease ratings; averaged 80 bu. /acre in VT three-year trials.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Roane	USG 3665 <b>USG 3315 (new)</b> Coker 9436	<b>USG 3251 (new)</b> USG 3342 <b>Merle (new)</b>	USG 3555 Jamestown

## WHEAT & BARLEY FALL 2010

### **Visor** : A New Cereal Seed Treatment from Renwood for Fall 2010

In 2010, we observed severe disease problems that started as root rots. While there are several fungi that can cause these rots, three diseases really hit wheat and barley hard in 2010. One was *Bipolaris* and the others were two *Fusarium*s, one of which also causes scab. These diseases are associated with warm soils (2" soil temperatures above 60°F).

When seedlings are infected and dry weather occurs between flag-leaf emergence and heading, plants can actually die or be severely damaged.

Planting late lowers the impact of these diseases. But as we get late, rains start, fields get wet and wheat cannot get planted. Even after a long cool spell, soils can still warm with "Indian Summer" temperatures. The challenge is to plant when we can plant but protect the seedlings from diseases that occurs with warm soil temperatures.

#### **Renwood Introduces Visor Seed Treatment**

For Fall, 2010, we are introducing **Visor**, a new seed treatment exclusively from Renwood Farms. This seed treatment is designed to stop the diseases associated with warm soil temperatures so growers can plant when the fields are ready.

Compared to Dividend Extreme®, **Visor** has three different seed treatments: two offer protection similar to Dividend but a third fungicide has been added to stop warm-soil fungal diseases.

	Dividend Extreme (2 oz. /cwt rate)	Renwood Visor
number of fungicides	2	3
half-life (days)	40	200
<i>Bipolaris</i> control	suppression	control
<i>Fusarium C.</i> control	no	control
<i>Fusarium G.</i> control	no	control



**Fusarium Crown Rot in Wheat in 2010**

#### Renwood Farms Seed Treatments for Fall 2010

Visor	basic three-fungicide treatment
Visor Plus	<b>Visor</b> with insect control for aphids and Hessian fly
Visor ST	<b>Visor</b> with growth stimulant and micronutrient fertilizer
Visor 5	<b>Visor</b> plus insecticide and micronutrients
Dividend Extreme	For late planting in cooler soils
Awaken ST	Growth stimulant with micronutrient package for early root development

In addition to stopping the disease early, **Visor** offers extended protection for falls when we get early cool weather but then temperatures warm. The half-life of Visor offers 200 days of protection compared to only 40 for Dividend. Extended protection may allow lower seeding rates for lower costs.

As fungicide seed treatments become available, we can select seed treatments to address specific problems unique to the Mid-Atlantic region.

Our **RenPro** and **RenPro Plus** for soybeans was the first step in this direction in 2009: now, with **Visor**, we can begin to expect the same consistent results in wheat and barley.



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### Two New Wheat Varieties and Visor Seed Treatment from Renwood



USG 3251



USG 3315