



Cereal 2011 Update: Topdressing

After a very chilly winter, the nice break we have received in Feb. and March has moved the barley and wheat right along. The red line in the graph at the bottom of the page shows how wheat has caught up and actually has moved slightly ahead of our eight-year average in Central Virginia for wheat planted Oct. 15th. Wheat usually reaches jointing (Growth Stage 30) between 1200 and 1400 growing Degree Units (GDUs)

As a reminder, we recommend plant tissue samples just prior to this BIG topdress to make sure there is good nutrient balance in the crop.

Growers may wish to push this application as corn planting is getting closer. In lieu of the plant tissue samples, here are our general topdress recommendations.

Nitrogen: total nitrogen rates for wheat ranges from 100 to 140 lbs. /acre depending on several factors. Most fields have received 40 to 60 lbs. /acre of nitrogen so far, some as one late fall application and others as a fall/winter split. Total N on barley ranges from 90 to 120 lbs.

Our average rate of application, based on prior year's plant tissue samples, is between 60 and 80 lbs. /acre for this last topdress on wheat and between 30 and 50 lbs. /acre on barley.

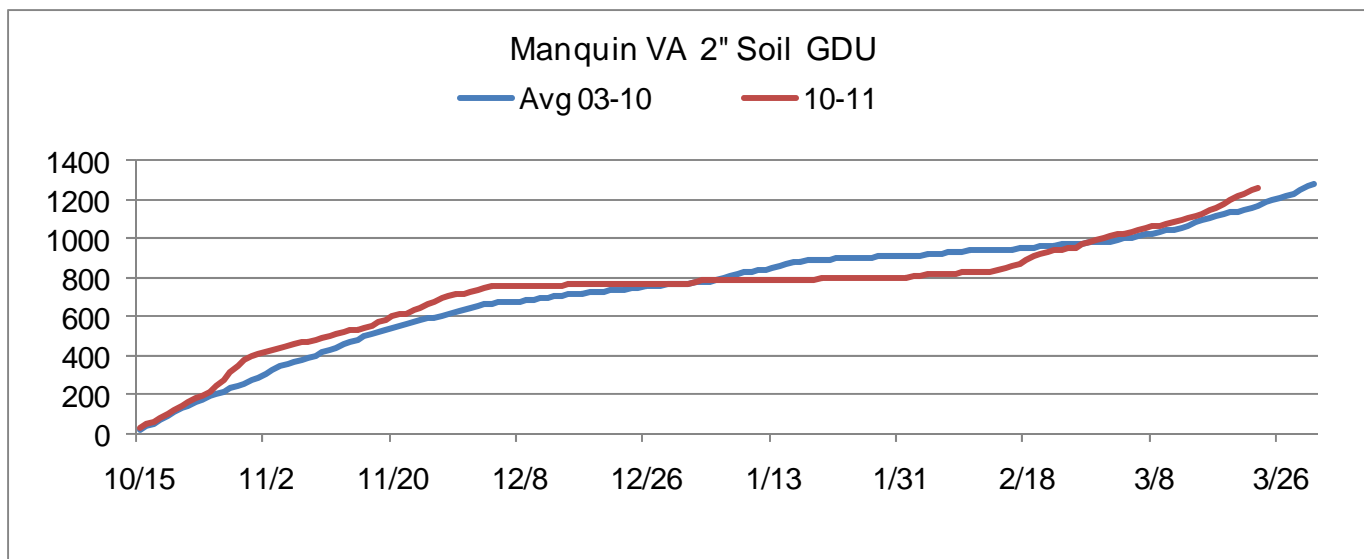
Deciding N Rates

The lower rates of nitrogen are used on heavier (more clay) soils, soils with litter, sludge or sludge pellets that have been applied prior to cereal planting or prior to the previous crop. In many fields, there is some nitrogen residual from the poor corn crop last summer. Higher rates of nitrogen are used on sandier soils and where growers are pushing high yields.

Growers topdressing early may wish to include Agrotain or Nutri-Sphere to reduce urea nitrogen losses. One-half of nitrogen solution is urea nitrogen which can be lost to the air within 48 hours after application. In 2005, a very dry winter, in agsystems' plots, Agrotain produced an average increase of 11 bu./acre when there was no rain from Feb. 5th to Apr.5th.

Early plant tissue samples are showing low boron and manganese levels. If you have a history of these elements testing low, add with your topdress nitrogen. **Excessive leaf burn can be due to low or deficient plant manganese levels.** The 10% liquid boron at 1 qt. /acre or 1 lb. /acre of Solubor can be used to correct boron problems.

For manganese, use an EDTA chelate to avoid mixing problems. Use one lb. /acre of 13% EDTA powder or 1-2 qts. /acre of 6% EDTA manganese liquid.



Recommendations made here are based on information available however, ag.systems does not warrant the success of any recommendation. Absolutely no warranties are made regarding the success of these recommendations for any particular purpose. User expressly assumes the risk of all factors, including but not limited to acts of God, drought, wind and rain damage, crop disease, and the like, which may effect these recommendations. Copyright©. All rights reserved

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Wheat Topdress: Protecting the Crop

Since 2004, agsystems has recommended using either Headline or Quadris in the BIG topdress. In 2010, with a horrible wheat year and low disease pressure, we still got an increase of 3.3 bu. /acre according to our yield monitor data. Yields have been increased as much as 14 bu. /acre with this application.

These fungicides are added to control our “cool season” cereal diseases: tan spot, leaf septoria and powdery mildew in wheat and spot blotch in barley. We have already found septoria along the VA/NC border and the initial stages of mildew.

Tan spot shouldn't be a problem except for notill wheat after wheat. Stopping these diseases early is always better (and cheaper) than stopping them late. Our recommendation is to add 3 to 4 ozs. / acre of Headline or Quadris to the topdress nitrogen application.

This application **will not control** our “warm season” wheat diseases: scab, glume blotch and rust. Hopefully, the varieties you bought from Renwood will maintain their resistance to these diseases and no further fungicide will be required. Substantial moisture at heading (rain or heavy dews) or a leaf rust invasion from the South may change this recommendation.

Important Note: if you planted wheat varieties that do not have tolerance to head scab or varie-

ties that are susceptible to glume blotch, we have been advised by N.C. State and Virginia Tech **not to use strobi chemistry** for at-heading fungicide applications. Strobi fungicides include Quadris, Headline, Quilt, Twinline and Stratego.

This fungicide Mode of Action (MOA) has been observed to increase vomitoxin levels in wheat. Vomitoxin is the fungi that causes dockage at the elevators when selling food-grade wheat. Feed-wheat buyers are not as concerned but the price is lower when selling into this market.

If a late fungicide is needed, use Prosaro or Caramba (both are better on scab) or just Tilt for glume blotch.

Insects: we recommend growers add 1.25 ozs. / acre of Karate or 2 ozs. /acre Baythroid to their BIG nitrogen topdress to control Hessian fly, cereal leaf beetle, aphids and armyworms. **Cereals need to be at or near GS 30 (Zadocks) or GS5 (Feekes) for this to be effective.** Lower light intensity and cooler temps allow longer residuals from pyrethroids.

Thank you for planting Renwood Farms Seed!