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Soybeans Planted After Corn Stand Failure

What About the Nitrogen?

DeltAg Product Brief
April 19, 2007

Growers to Follow Corn with Soybeans: Many growers across the Mid-south have determined to burn down their damaged corn and plant soybeans. Here at **DeltAg**, we have one major concern; Planting soybeans on ground that has recently had an application of 100 to 200 pounds of nitrogen for corn.

Nodulation vs Applied Nitrogen: With that much nitrogen under the soybeans, there is no doubt that nodulation will be delayed or perhaps will not occur at all. We have had many situations over the years where a soybean crop was not inoculated at planting and nodulation either did not occur or was delayed. In these cases, recommendations were made to apply nitrogen. If the nitrogen was applied and moisture received timely, yields were very good. In these corn fields there will be more than enough nitrogen to produce a good soybean crop. Soybeans, provided they have adequate nitrogen available during crucial periods of crop development, can produce at optimum levels without nodulation.

Nitrogen, Negative Impact Early: The difference with our current situation is that the nitrogen has already been applied, has had time to fully convert to available Nitrates and will have an initial negative impact on newly planted soybeans. Our concern is too much nitrogen available too early in crop development. The result can and most likely will be thin stalks, long nodes, delayed blooming and a potentially lodged soybean crop. With large volumes of Nitrate Nitrogen under the soybeans and available early, we need to prepare for and manage for potential fast growth, delayed blooming and lodging. At **DeltAg**, we have worked with many soybean growers across the South in fields with a history of fast growth and lodging. This year, we would advise you to anticipate lodging issues on soybeans with high nitrogen rates. Take the correct precautions to manage for lodging, rather than trying to figure out what to do after the fact.

Apply Boron Plus Foliar: We have found applications of foliar **Boron Plus** to help reduce potential lodging. We started this practice on fields with lodging history with great success and over the past few years have come to utilize this practice more and more on entire crops of soybeans. **Function of Boron:** The function of Boron is the same in all plants, whether cotton, corn or soybeans. Our industry has utilized boron in cotton to drive nitrates to the fruit since the late 1970's and has finally begun to recognize the benefits in soybeans. In this crop year, with all the Nitrogen under many soybean fields, you may very well find your best investment is a good dose of **Boron Plus**. Most often this application is made with glyphosate. If the grower determines that he will only apply **Boron Plus** one time, we would prefer to see **Boron Plus** at 8 ounces per acre in the second application of glyphosate. Soil application is also an option if the grower has the ability to side-dress liquids.

Best Method for Optimum Impact on Yield and Lodging:

First Glyphosate Trip: Apply **PercPlus** at 12 ounces and **Boron Plus** at 4 ounces

Second Glyphosate Trip: Apply **PercPlus** at 12 ounces and **Boron Plus** at 8 ounces.

Design is to improve crop vigor, reduce fruit shed & reduce potential lodging.

These guidelines have been utilized on many farms over the past with great success enhancing final yield.