



JUNE 2010

The 2010 planting season is about wrapped up with the majority of the region again receiving significant to excessive rainfall. **Important notes** to start with:

- **Planting:** Contact us immediately if you were unable to get your contracted acreage planted.
- **Seed returns:** No seed returns will be accepted after August 1, 2010, so contact us as soon as possible if you have returns for us.
- **Field Locations:** To comply with the terms and conditions of your 2010 sunflower contract, make sure your completed homestead and field locations form is returned to us by July 15. It is very important to accurately describe both your homestead and field locations as it is crucial to us when we are scouting your fields.
- **Seed Invoices:** Seed invoices must be paid by July 31, 2010, in order to avoid a late charge assessment. Late charges will be applied at a rate of 1-1/4 percent per month (15 percent annum to overdue accounts).

Weed Control

Spraying for grasses and mustard **has started** in some areas. For all our growers with the **400CL Clearfield® Sunflower**, the recommended application timing is between the **2- to 8-leaf stage**.

Rust

At this time, we have **not had reports of rust** showing up, but fields need to be scouted soon after the crop is up. Rust can cause significant economic damage, but is very controllable using fungicides. **Timing of the application is critical.** For updates on rust, the **National Sunflower Association** is a great source of information and can be found on the web at www.sunflowernsa.com. You can also **contact Sam Markell**, Extension Plant Pathologist, at samuel.markell@ndsu.edu.

Stem Weevils

To date we have **not received any reports of stem weevil** infestations. Stem weevil adults will begin emerging in mid to late-June. Fields should be monitored for stem weevil adults, especially if you have a history of stem weevil problems. The **economic threshold is one adult per plant**. If needed, treatment should be initiated in late June or early July before appreciable egg laying has occurred.

The insecticides labeled for control are too numerous to mention here. Contact your local agronomist/ag specialist or applicator for labeled products. A complete listing of resources can also be found at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm. Consult the label for application rates, and please carefully read and follow all label directions.

Downy Mildew

Due to wet soil conditions in most areas, **downy mildew is likely to be present** at some level. Symptoms include **stunting and yellowing** of leaves. Look on the bottom side of the plant leaves for white powdery fungal spores. The majority of our seed this year was treated with the new **Idol™ Sunflower System** offering greater protection against downy mildew. Downy mildew is often worse in areas with soil compaction.

Cutworms

Cutworm infestations of economic importance **have been reported** in some areas. Sunflower fields should be monitored at least once, preferably twice, per week until they reach the 4-6 leaf stage.

Early detection and early treatment are very important factors in effective control. Again, insecticides labeled for control are too numerous to mention here, so contact your local agronomist/ag specialist or applicator for labeled products. A complete labeled insecticide listing can also be found at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm. Remember **Cruiser®Maxx or Idol™ Sunflower System** seed treatment is **not labeled for cutworms** and will not provide adequate control. Consult the

label for application rates, and please carefully read and follow all label directions.

Cultivation

The seedbeds into which the sunflowers have been planted have become firm, gray in color and sealed up. **Cultivation may provide relief.** By tilling the soil we can break up any surface sealing and also turn the soil black again which may aid in **warming the soil** and **stimulating plant growth**. Although not scientifically proven, many seasoned production personnel believe cultivation is beneficial.

As always, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help you produce the best! Call us at our main number at the Grandin office is 701-484-5313, or more directly as below.

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