



JUNE 2008

The 2008 planting season is off to a good start with most acres planted; however, some planting was delayed by the significant rainfall. Plant stands look good so far, and weed control is good to excellent. Spartan® appears to be performing very well again this spring. **Please contact us immediately if you were unable to get your contracted acreage planted. We are beginning seed pick-up and returns the week of June 23, so let us know right away if you have seed to return.**

Sunflower Beetles

Adult beetles will be found on sunflower plants soon, as they emerge from the soil in early to mid-June. But early treatment of the adult beetle is usually not warranted. Egg hatches will occur 7-10 days after mating, and this larval or immature stage is usually more damaging to a sunflower than the adults. This stage can last from four to six weeks. The margins of the fields are usually attacked first. Cruiser® treated seed should provide control of this pest. The economic thresholds for sunflower beetle control are:

- One to two sunflower beetle adults per seedling
- 25-30 percent defoliation of the plant
- 10-12 larvae per plant up to the 8-12 leaf stage

The insecticides labeled for control are too numerous to mention here. We recommend you contact your local agronomist/ag specialist or applicator for labeled products. You can also find a list on the web at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm Consult labels for application rates; please carefully read and follow all label directions.

Stem Weevils

To date, we have not received any reports of stem weevil infestation; however, adults will begin emerging in mid to late June. Fields should be monitored for stem weevil adults, especially if your area has 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.

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Downy Mildew

Due to the wet soil conditions in some 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. While not offering complete control, the seed treated with Dynasty (azoxystrobin) in your Cruiser® DM Pack does offer the latest in downy mildew suppression. 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 four to six-leaf stage.

Early detection and early treatment are very important factors in effective control. Remember Cruiser® seed treatment is **not** labeled for cutworms and will **not** provide adequate control. The insecticides labeled for control are too numerous to mention here. We recommend you contact your local agronomist/ag specialist or applicator for labeled products. You can also find a list on the web at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm Consult labels for application rates; please carefully read and follow all label directions.

Cultivation

Cultivation may provide some relief to sunflower seedbeds that have become firm, gray in color and sealed up. Tilling the soil breaks up any surface sealing and helps turn the soil black again, which may aid in warming the soil and stimulating plant growth. While not scientifically proven, many seasoned production personnel believe cultivation is beneficial.

Special Note to Contract Growers

In order to comply with the terms and conditions of your 2008 CHS sunflower contract, please make sure you've returned your field location document to us by **July 10**. It is very important to accurately describe **both** your **homestead** and **field locations**, as this information is crucial to us when we are scouting your fields for potential problems. Your immediate attention to this matter will assist us in helping you with any problems you may have throughout the growing season.

Seed Invoices

Seed invoices must be paid by June 30, 2008, in order to avoid a late charge assessment. Late charges are applied at a rate of 1.25 percent per month (15 percent per annum to overdue accounts).