



JUNE 2007

The 2007 planting season is about wrapped up with the majority of our region receiving significant to excessive rainfall amounts. We are off to a good start with most of the acres planted, although some planting was delayed by the heavy rains. Plant stands are good, and weed control is good to excellent. Spartan has performed very well again so far this spring. Please contact us immediately if you were unable to get your contracted acreage planted.

Sunflower Beetles

Adult beetles will be found on sunflower plants soon, emerging from the soil in early to mid-June. Early treatment of the adult beetle is usually not warranted. Once mating has happened, egg hatches will occur in 7-10 days; the larval or immature stage is usually more damaging to a sunflower than the adults and can last from four to six weeks. The margins of the fields are usually attacked first. The **economic thresholds** for sunflower beetle control are: **1-2 adults per seedling**; 25% to 30% defoliation of the plant; 10-12 larvae per plant up to the 8-12 leaf stage. **Cruiser**-treated seed should provide control of this pest.

Some of the insecticides registered in North Dakota for sunflower beetle control include: Furadan 4F Carbaryl (Sevin), Asana XL, Lorsban 4E; Warrior and Baythroid. Consult the label for application rates, and please carefully read and follow all label directions

Stem Weevils

To date, we have not received any reports of stem weevil infestations; however, 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 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. Some of the insecticides which are currently labeled for stem weevil control include Carbaryl (Sevin), Furadan 4F, Lorsban 4E and Asana XL, and Warrior. Consult the label for application rates, and please carefully read and follow all label directions.

Downy Mildew

Due to the wet soil conditions in select 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 seed treated with Dynasty (azoxystrobin) in your **Cruiser DM Pack** while not offering complete control 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 4-6 leaf stage. Early detection and early treatment are very important factors in effective control. Some of the insecticides currently labeled for cutworm control are: Lorsban 4E, Lorsban 15G, Asana XL, Sevin XLR, and Warrior. Remember **Cruiser** 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 some relief to these issues. Tilling the soil breaks up any surface sealing, and turning the soil black again may warm the soil quicker and stimulate plant growth. While not scientifically proven, many seasoned production personnel believe cultivation is beneficial.

Field Locations

In order to comply with the terms and conditions of your 2007 sunflower contract, please complete and return your field description sheet to us by July 10. Take the time to accurately **describe both your homestead and field locations**. This information is crucial to us throughout the summer and fall 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, 2007, in order to avoid a late charge assessment. Late charges will be applied at a rate of 1 1/4% per month (15% annum to overdue accounts).

Please return your completed field description sheet to us by July 10.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, don't hesitate to call or email our offices.