

Agronomy Newsletter: Summer 2022

From the desk of Alex Emehiser

Topics:

- Tar Spot Update
- Plenish Soybeans
- Product Spotlight: A-Series Enlist Soybeans


Through another year and another set of challenges, we want to thank you all for your business. We appreciate the relationships, and working through the always changing challenges that we face. We look forward to a successful harvest and hope to see you all at our field day program.

- Dane and Alex

Tar Spot Update

Tar Spot has been talked about a great deal in the last year after the major outbreak last summer and fall. While we were prepared for the worst this year, fully expecting it to occur again, we have been fortunate up to this point. As of writing this (August 12th), we have not identified any major infestations in the area that we service. It has been hard to find any foliar diseases in the corn up to this point as well. That being said, we are not completely out of the woods yet when it comes to possible infection and loss of yield potential to leaf disease. I will highlight what we can expect going forward, and if we will need to be prepared to take any actions.

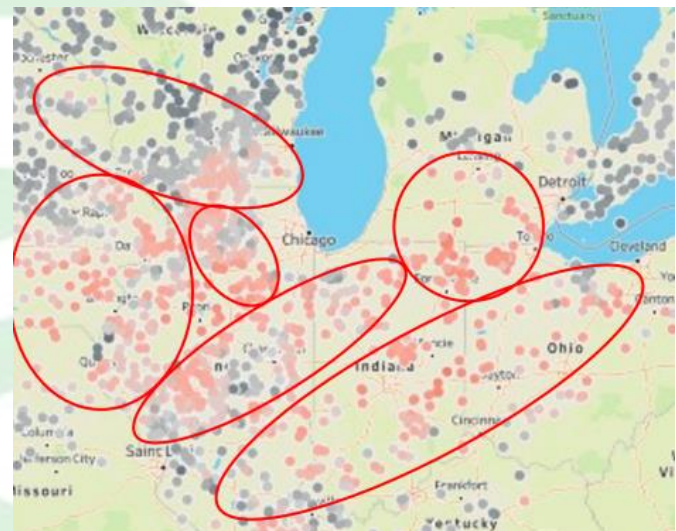
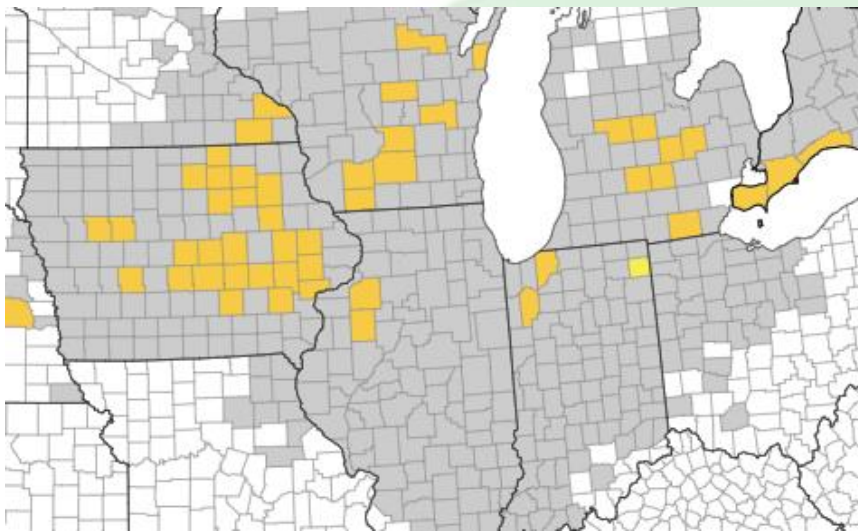
As we have mentioned before, we are moving into the prime season for Tar Spot infection and spread. The weather conditions that favor infection for our two most concerning diseases, Northern Corn Leaf Blight and Tar Spot, are shown in the chart below.

Foliar Disease	Temperature	Moisture	Humidity	Secondary Infection	Symptomology
Northern Corn Leaf Blight	65 – 75°F	> 6 hr of leaf wetness		7 Days after infection	
Tar Spot	60 – 75°F	4 – 7 hr of leaf wetness	>75%	14 Days after infection	

A few things to note, our current temperatures and the short term forecast are showing temperatures hanging out in the range of lower 60s to upper 70s. This is the sweet spot for both diseases to infect and spread. The humidity has also been increasing as we have seen heavy rains, dews, and fog in the mornings recently. While the conditions definitely favor the development, the good news is that we have seen almost none to date. We will continue to monitor the situation as

we move forward. Remember that it takes 14 days for Tar Spot to complete its life cycle, meaning that even if we get the initial small infection in the next few weeks, by the time it would get to a yield limiting level the majority of our crop should be developed enough that it would have minimal effect.

So what can we expect going forward? For those of you that applied fungicide in the last week or two, your coverage should hold through the most critical growth stages to keep the plants protected. We will continue to watch untreated fields and fields that were sprayed over 2-3 weeks ago as the fungicide residual begins to wear off. At this time, we don't anticipate that another application will be necessary. For those of you that are curious, I included a picture of where Tar Spot has been confirmed by university labs across the corn belt, as well as Pioneer's computer model showing the risk of Tar Spot developing.



Plenish Soybeans

The Plenish Soybean market has exploded over the last few years, with a huge increase in demand from the end users at food companies from Frito Lay, Nestle, and Starbucks, as well as industrial uses. Why is that good news for farmers? These companies really want the oil, and they are willing to pay a premium for it. That premium is getting passed on to the farmers to help meet this growing demand. I will provide an overview of the programs available to our area farmers to capture this premium. I will also highlight some of the benefits and challenges to raising Plenish Soybeans, and how we can help you be more profitable on your operation.



STRIKE WHILE THE OIL'S HOT. EARN UP TO \$2.20 PER BUSHEL PREMIUM



Programs and Premiums: Both Bunge (Decatur) and ADM (New Haven) will have programs for farmers to deliver both in harvest and on a buyer's call option. There will be several other local elevators participating as well, but those have not officially been released.

- ADM Premium: \$2.00/bushel (Harvest and buyer's call are the same premium), as well as a \$0.20/bushel bonus with an early sign on (prior to ????)
- Bunge Premium: Harvest Delivery- \$1.95/bushel Buyer's Call- \$2.05/bushel, as well as a \$10/acre early sign up bonus (prior to ????)

Both of these premiums work out to nearly the same level. Doing some simple math based on the ADM premium and a 60 bushel per acre average yield, **Plenish soybeans can bring an EXTRA \$132/acre to your operation.** With 500 acres of soybeans that is an additional \$66,000 of profit. With numbers like this, you might be thinking "What's the catch? This sounds too good to be true!" In all reality, there is no catch. These soybeans are some of the highest yielding, most agronomically sound beans in our lineup and have proven that they perform well on our soils. While weed control is a concern, I will address some steps that can be taken to help mitigate that below.

Plenish Soybeans only carry glyphosate tolerance, limiting the herbicide options when it comes to tough weeds like marestail, waterhemp, and giant ragweed. However, we have had many growers be successful in controlling these weeds within the Plenish program.

- First and foremost, it is imperative to start with clean fields. Not only is this getting a clean burn-down in the spring, but choosing fields without a history of heavy waterhemp pressure as they continue germinating throughout the growing season.
- Use 2,4-D, Roundup, or any other effective burndown herbicide paired with a multiple mode of action pre-emerge residual (Trivence). The easiest time to kill these tough weeds is before they emerge. This can be followed up in an early post with Roundup and a Group 15 (Dual) to extend the residual control specifically for waterhemp.

- While this may seem like an expensive soybean herbicide program, the few extra dollars spent on herbicide enables you to capture many more in premiums. After all, we are talking about the potential of another \$130+/acre.

As I mentioned before, the Plenish soybean varieties we offer now are some of our best performing beans. A few things that they all have in common are their excellence at emergence time, ability to handle our tougher clay soils, and good Sudden Death Syndrome Tolerance. Here are a few of our top performers: P28A83PR, P30A46PR, P34A65PR, and P37T51PR. All of these offer yield potential on par or higher than our Enlist lineup, and carry a yield advantage over our competitors. This was showcased last year, **where Plenish varieties took 6 of the top 10 spots in our high yielding plot.** As we get closer to seed purchasing time, we will be happy to discuss the ins and outs of this program with all of you. It is always our goal to find the choices that fit best with your operation.

Product Spotlight: A-Series Enlist Soybeans

It is an exciting time to be with Pioneer. In addition to our Plenish offering, our Enlist lineup will be transitioning into our own Pioneer Genetics. This will be a big step for our Enlist soybean offering. To help explain the significance of this change to our A-Series soybeans, I used an excerpt from our Product Agronomist Andrew Ferrel, who plays a large role in selecting which hybrids and varieties end up in a Pioneer bag.

- **100% of the Pioneer brand A-Series Enlist E3 lineup is 100% proprietary to Pioneer.** No A-Series Enlist E3 variety can be found in another seed brand's bag.
- **Yield Potential** - All Enlist E3[®] soybeans look the same. Except at harvest, because Pioneer[®] brand A-series soybeans are the highest-yielding soybeans Pioneer has ever produced.
- **Agronomic Performance** - exceptional performance starts with defense. And the Pioneer[®] brand A-Series Enlist E3[®] soybeans have been developed with the native defensive traits you need to fight SCN, SDS, white mold, *Phytophthora* and other yield-robbing diseases.
- **Research** - From lab to field, our extensive breeding and product testing programs ensure that our beans will work in your local conditions.

To summarize, the A-Series Enlist beans will bring a new yield level, with improved agronomics in the areas that we worry about, and more stability across a range of soils and environments. We look forward to seeing the yield data come in on these new varieties this fall as we harvest our plots and side by sides!