

Agronomy Newsletter: Summer 2021

From the desk of Alex Emehiser

Topics:

- Enlist Herbicide Best Management Practices and Considerations
- Plenish Soybean Update
- Beware of the Snake Oils
- Why are My Beans Yellow and Growing Slow?
- Product Spotlight: New Advancement **P0995AM**

Thank you all for a great spring and planting season! For the most part it was the spring we dream of, with everything being planted in good time and with very little replant. We appreciate each and every one of you as customers, and we are excited for another great year!

Dane, Alex, and Max

Enlist Herbicide Best Management Practices and Considerations

While there has already been a lot of herbicide applications made to the soybeans, we thought it would be a good idea to revisit some of guidelines for applying Enlist herbicide. Enlist gives the growers much more flexibility when it comes to application timing than the dicamba products we have been using. **With no hard cut-off date for application (Dicamba is June 20th), Enlist is able to be applied through the R2 growth stage.** While both programs are very effective, the Enlist program allows you to make timely applications regardless of planting date and current weather conditions without worrying about a hard cut-off date. I will go through some of the other label guidelines below, and discuss a few other things to look out for when applying Enlist.

- Apply 10-15 Gallons per acre of carrier: Increase volume as crop height, canopy, and weed density increase. Ensure proper coverage for best results
- Enlist has a wide array of tank mix options, including Liberty. To see a full list of compatible tank mixes, visit Enlisttankmix.com
- Apply at proper wind speed: Target 3-10 mph winds, and no higher than 15 mph
- No buffer is required when spraying next to downwind compatible crops. Compatible crops would include corn, wheat, and soybeans (including non Enlist soybeans).
- **DO NOT** spray when there is a susceptible crop downwind. Susceptible crops include: tomatoes, fruiting vegetables, cucurbits (such as pumpkins or melons), and grapes.

For those spraying Enlist for the first time this year, there are a few things that you might see after an application. It has been common to see some slight speckling of the leaves following an application. It will not cause any yield damage as long as there is not another herbicide

contamination involved that causes more severe damage. There is a picture below of what to expect.



You may also see the leaves appear to be droopy after an application, especially on a hot sunny afternoon. This is also nothing to worry about, and the beans will quickly grow out of it. It has been studied since these beans were in research, and neither of these symptoms has shown to reduce yield.

Plenish Soybean Update

There has been a lot of exciting news in the world of Plenish Soybeans. As we talked about last year, demand for the oil has exploded over the last year or two, and the processors are expanding acres to meet the needs. In the last year, a few major players have jumped on board and started using Plenish oil in their products, including Lays Potato Chips. I will go through a few quick bullet points with some updates on the future of Plenish Soybeans, and how it could be a benefit to your operations.

- Acre demand is expected to nearly double for the 2022 growing season, and will be higher than our peak year of 2017. In 2017, nearly 2/3 of the soybeans we sold were Plenish Soybeans. The end use market is there to support 750,000 to 1 Million acres across the U.S.
- Premiums are expected to increase from \$.75-\$.85/bushel this year to help incentivize more farmers to contract. While we don't have official numbers yet, we are excited that this premium could be close to many NON-GMO contracts, many of which have disappeared this year.
- There are talks of more incentives to sign up early, and there also may be some bundling opportunities with herbicide programs.
- While the Plenish beans are still only Roundup Ready at this time, Pioneer is working towards Enlist in Plenish. We are hopeful that these beans will be on the market within 2-3 years.
- We look forward to discussing this with you as we get more details, and we will see how this may fit into your operation as we look at seed purchases for next year.

Beware of the Snake Oils

With high commodity prices this year, there will be lots of people asking you try their favorite new “snake oil” treatment. They are usually accompanied by claims of 5-10 bushel per acre returns with a cost of only \$10/acre. You need to be skeptical of these claims because it only takes a few poor investments into your crop to chew up what could have been great profits this year. We don't ever discourage growers from trying new things, but if you are eager to try something make it a small test and leave test strips in a field or two. Be wary of someone who will only sell you enough for the entire farm, and balks at doing any sort of replicated test. Some things to consider when determining if a product is the real deal or “snake oil”:

- Yield Data: Does the salesman provide any real yield data? This should include tests from multiple locations over multiple years, not a single farmer testimonial saying it brought him 15 bushels/acre. Don't trust their claims if they can not back it up with yield data
- Analysis of the Product: What are you actually getting in the jug, fertilizer, microbes? Also, how much are you getting, is it 99% carrier with very little active ingredient. Some foliar sprays are able to get sufficient micronutrients in very small quantities, but it may not be cost effective. Double check to see how much of each nutrient you are actually applying on a per acre basis.
- Does it sound too good to be true? If a company makes outlandish claims about the wonders their product works, it's usually too good to be true. Take every claim with a grain of salt and try to find the small truths in each claim. As my rule of thumb, I cut the yield gains promised in half and then see if it could still pay for itself. Most times this is not the case.
- Ask Questions: The more questions you can ask about how something works, or what to expect with an application, the easier it is to bring out the truth.

Always feel free to ask us questions about new products you see or hear about. We have seen many different things tried by the customers we work with, and in many cases we have helped set up yield checks.

Why are My Beans Yellow and Growing Slow?

This time of year, we usually get lots of questions about why the beans seem to be stuck in their tracks with poor color. Most times, it is nothing to worry about as they are going through what we like to call the “ugly duckling” stage. There are several things that cause them to look this way, and I will go through them below.

- Poor Root Nodulation: Usually the main culprit of yellow stunted looking beans. As the soybean plant transitions from the Nitrogen stored in the cotyledons to nitrogen from the

nodules, there is usually some lag time in between where the bean looks nitrogen deficient.

Some things that can make this more noticeable are: Saturated soils, drought, cool soils, no-till, and compaction. The use of rhizobia inoculant can help this transition in some cases. The picture to the right shows poor nodulation in the red circle.



- **Phytophthora Root Rot**: This disease favors extended wet periods with the temperature between 60-80 degrees. While we have not had these conditions through the spring, the recent rains have brought on this possibility. It is usually more of a problem on the heavy clay soils, and the lowest poorest drained areas in those fields. Our Fungicide Seed Treatment is very effective vs. phytophthora, but protection starts to fade after 30 days.
- **Flooding**: Plants that are submerged in water for an extended amount of time will begin to suffer from lack of oxygen in the soil. This is usually obvious, and we have not had widespread rains heavy enough to do this in large areas.

If there are ever any questions about a field in particular, let us know and we would love to take a look at it with you. In most cases, these beans will get their feet under them and take off within a week or two and never look back.

Product Spotlight: P0995AM

P0995AM is a new hybrid we have in our test plots this year that we are very excited about. It sits right in the heart of our maturity range, and looks to work well across all the soils we cover here in Northeast Indiana. It is a stress tolerant hybrid with excellent top end yield potential. If it performs as advertised it could replace P0977AM, and in research testing it had a 7 bu/acre advantage.

Strengths:

- Good emergence, improved stalk strength vs. P0977AM
- Excellent drought tolerance, will be an Aquamax Hybrid
- Solid Disease tolerance, paired with good test weight

Weaknesses:

- Will not keep up at highest yield levels (230+ bu/acre) with our racehorse hybrids