

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

August 17, 2022



White mold is here! Now is a great time to scout your soybeans.

In This Issue:

- Weather Update:
Mild Conditions for
August Continue
- More on Tar Spot:
Mid To Late R-
Stage Fungicide
Application
- Fungicide
Fundamentals and
Insurance
Applications
- Why Interseeding
Might Be The Boost
Cover Crops Need
- Lee's Monthly News
Column

Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Weather continues to dominate a lot of conversations in the area. Scattered showers did not provide the significant rain that many were hoping for but provided enough annoyance if you were trying to make hay. The long-range forecast for the next ten days looks a little bit better to fill out the grain, but we've heard that line before this year.

A lot of late season diseases have started to appear. If you have not started to scout, make time this week to look for white mold, tar spot, and other diseases. If you find something, and are not sure what it is, give us a call and we can help.

Stay safe and have a great week!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Angie Arnold
Portage County
Extension Educator

Weather Update: Mild Conditions for August Continue

By Aaron Wilson

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-27/weather-update-mild-conditions-august-continue>

Summary: Precipitation across Ohio to start August has varied widely across the state (Figure 1). Wet conditions have prevailed across much of northwest and southeast Ohio (blue and purple shading), while dryness remains across portions of northeast and southwest Ohio (yellow and orange shading). After above average warmth for July, especially with overnight lows, a cooler pattern settled in across the state over the weekend. Low temperatures fell into the upper 40s to low 50s across much of Ohio on Saturday morning. Columbus tied for its coolest daytime high of 70°F for August 14. Overall, temperatures ran 2-4°F below average this past week. For the latest up-to-date conditions, seasonal outlooks, and monthly climate summaries, please visit the [State Climate Office of Ohio](#).

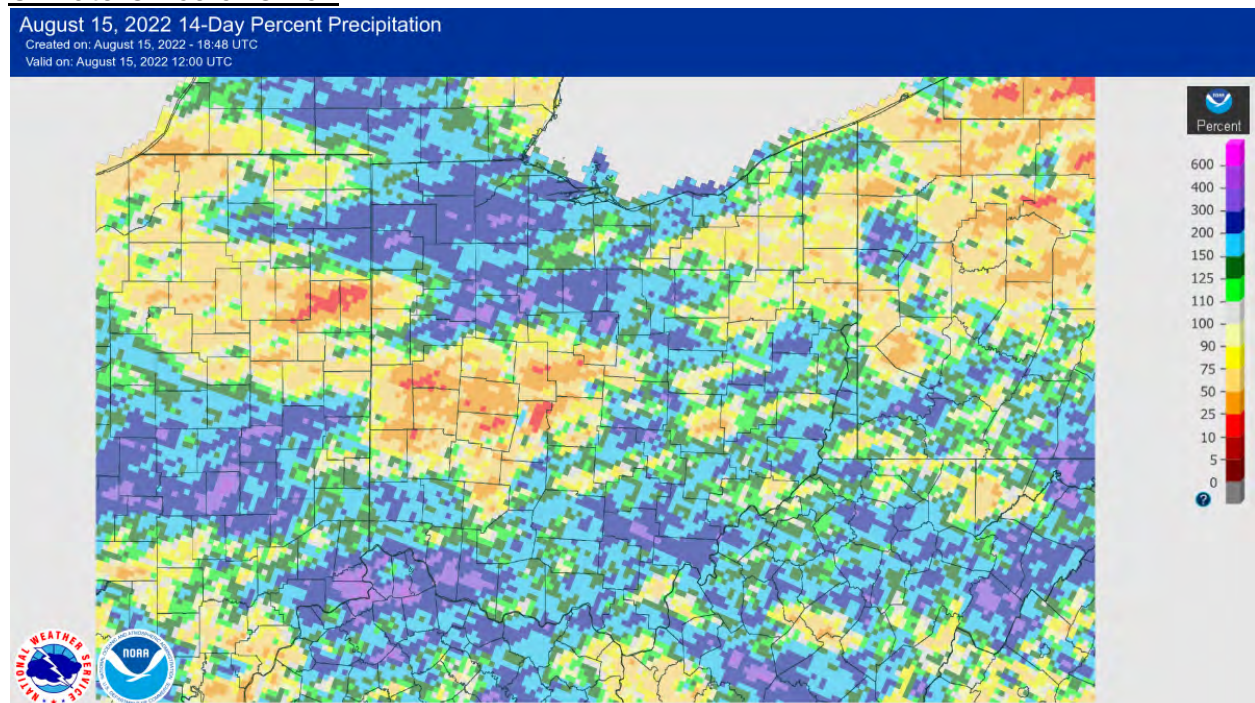


Figure 1). Percent of normal 14-day precipitation ending at 8:00am August 15, 2022. Figure courtesy of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (<https://water.weather.gov/precip/>).

Forecast: Low pressure across Kentucky may lead to a few isolated showers and storms for Tuesday and Wednesday, mainly across the eastern half of Ohio. High pressure will take control for Thursday and Friday, before the next cold front slowly moves in and lingers throughout the region for Saturday through Monday. This front will likely kick up a few showers and storms for the weekend. Temperatures will remain

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

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Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

seasonally mild this week, with highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s and overnight lows in the upper 50s to mid 60s. The Weather Prediction Center is forecasting 0.25-1.0 inch of rain over the next 7 days (Figure 2).

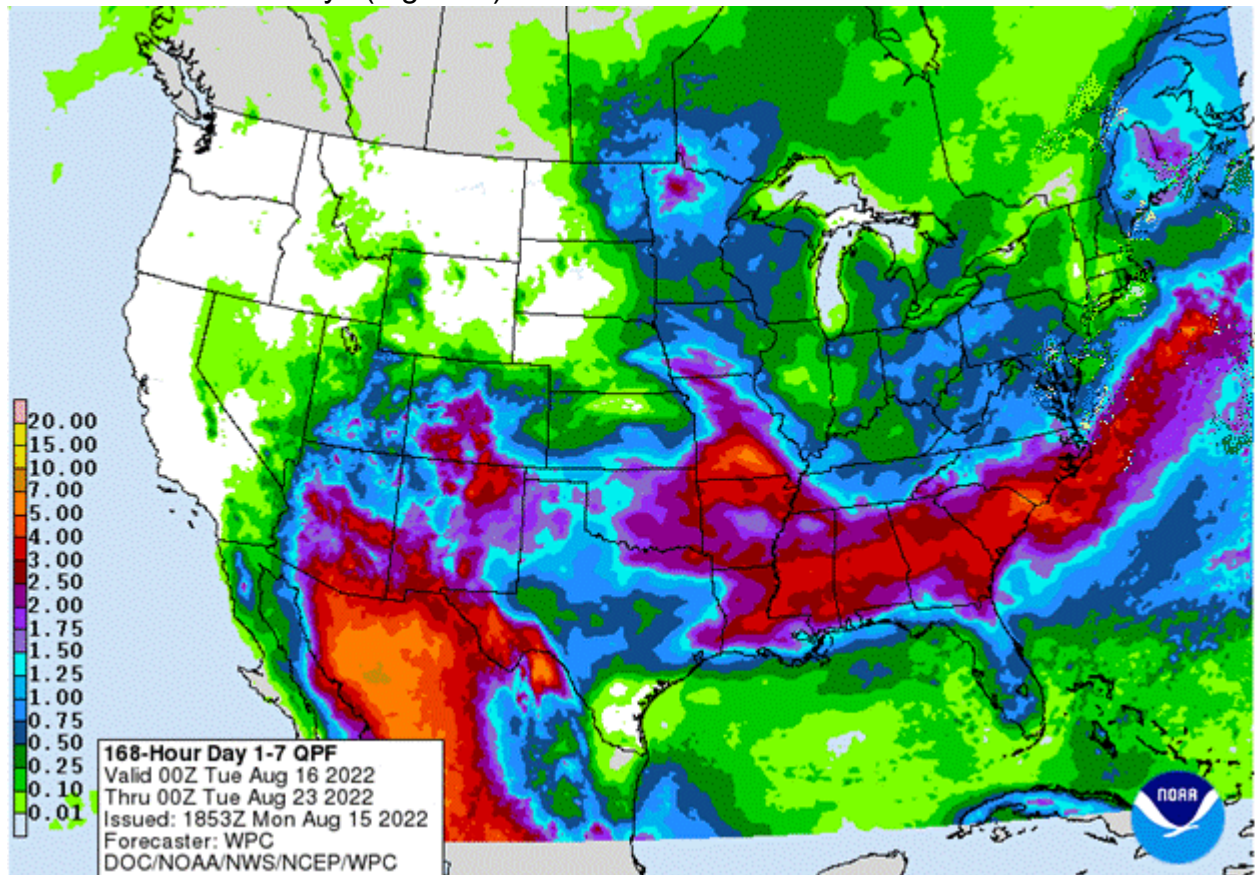


Figure 2). Precipitation forecast from the Weather Prediction Center for 8pm Monday Aug 15 – 8pm August 22.

The Climate Prediction Center's 6–10-day outlook for the period of August 21-25, 2022 and the 16-Day Rainfall Outlook from NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center show near to below average temperatures with above average precipitation are expected (Figure 3). Climate averages for the period include a high-temperature range of 82-86°F, a low-temperature range of 61-65°F, and average weekly total precipitation of about 0.75 inches.

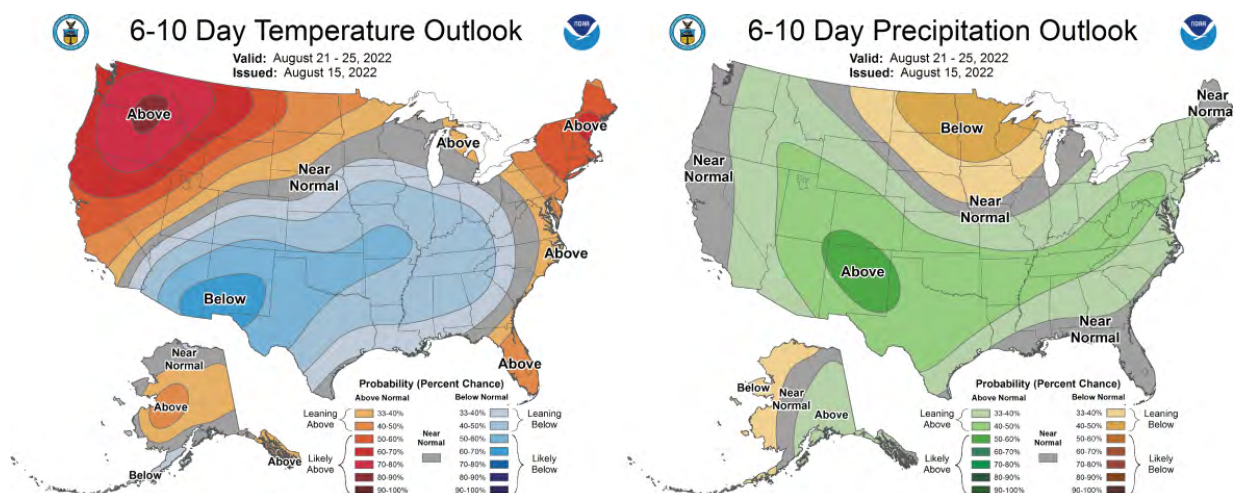


Figure 3) Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Outlook valid for August 21 – 25, 2022 for left) temperatures and right) precipitation. Colors represent the probability of below, normal, or above normal conditions.

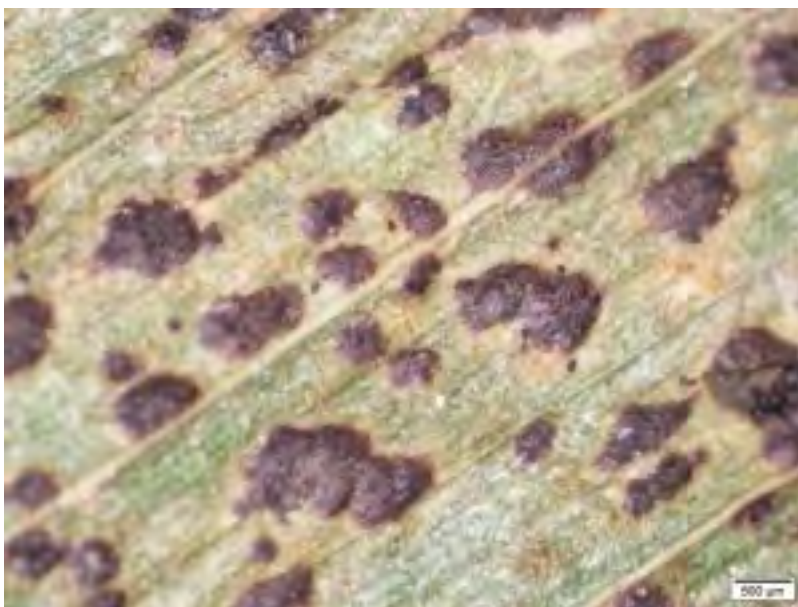
More on Tar Spot: Mid to Late R-Stage Fungicide Application

By Pierce Paul

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-27/more-tar-spot-mid-late-r-stage-fungicide-application>

Most of the corn across the state of Ohio is now between the late-R1 (silking) and late-R3 (milk) growth stages, with a few late-planted fields at late vegetative stages. Concerns about tar spot, but more likely, a sense of security provided by relatively high grain prices have led to several fields being sprayed with a fungicide at or shortly after R1 and questions being asked about spraying additional fields that are now at mid reproductive stages (between late-R2 [kernel blister] and R3 [milk]) of development. Concerns about tar spot are understandable, given how widespread the disease was last year (2021) and the level of damage it is

Northeast Ohio Agriculture



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Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

capable of causing. However, the basic approach for tar spot management in Ohio should be no different from the approach commonly recommended for managing other, more common foliar, fungal diseases such as gray leaf spot. **You have to scout fields, monitor the weather, and if needed, apply the fungicide when it is most likely to be effective, without violating label restrictions.**

So far this season, of the more than 15 samples examined (actual leaves or images) and 40+ field scouted at 15-day intervals, only three were positive for tar spot. This is considerably lower than what we saw at a similar time and growth stage in 2021. **Does this mean that your R2-R3 corn is no longer at risk for tar spot?** In places where the disease is endemic (hot spots where lots of spores may be readily available), a susceptible hybrid is planted, and weather conditions are favorable (moderate temperatures and wet and humid), tar spot may still develop and spread quickly after R3. However, under conditions less favorable for tar spot development (cool and dry) where spores need to blow in from outside, the crop is at lower risk for tar spot, even if symptoms begin to develop at R3. **So, the short answer is, if you planted a susceptible hybrid no-till or minimum-till in a corn field that had tar spot last year, and weather conditions become highly favorable over the next few weeks, your crop could still be at risk.**

I
n scouting my R2-R3 corn field for tar spot, should I focus my attention on the lower or upper leaves? If you planted corn-after-corn in a no-till field that had tar spot last year, the lower leaves will likely be the first to become infected and develop symptoms. However, in cases where spores have to be blown in from neighboring fields or regions, symptoms may develop first on leaves in the middle and upper portions of the plant. But it is not always easy to determine where the spores are coming from, and as such, where symptoms will develop first. In addition, depending on the weather, it may take several days or weeks after infection for symptoms to develop. **So, when scouting for tar spot, examine the entire plant. Begin at the edge of the field where more spores are likely to be deposited and work your way towards the center, examining plants at regular intervals as you go. Do this in multiple areas of the field.**

If I scout and find tar spot, I did not spray at R1, my corn is now at R3, and the forecast is for wet, rainy weather over the next several days, would I benefit from spraying a fungicide now at R3? Based on data from neighboring states, fungicides do show promising results against tar spot, particularly those with multiple active ingredients (AI). **Applications made between R1 and R2 tend to give the best results in terms of tar spot control and yield response, but you may still see a benefit from an R3 application, particularly if the disease comes in late, the hybrid is highly susceptible, and the wet weather persists for several weeks.** Prolonged and extended wet conditions during the latter half of the season seem to favor tar spot. However, keep your eyes on the fungicide preharvest interval. Most of the 2- and 3-AI

fungicides that are among the most effective against tar spot have preharvest intervals greater than 20 days. Always read and follow the labels.

Fungicide Fundamentals and Insurance Applications

By Matt Ernst

Source: <https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/crso.20193>

Abstract

Last year, in the Corn Belt, rising corn prices fueled producer willingness to make “insurance” fungicide applications to hedge against possible yield losses from foliar disease. Newer disease risks—especially tar spot—also spurred some producers toward a more aggressive spray program. Market realities mean that “insurance” fungicide applications are likely to continue in 2022. But crop costs and returns will change, and CCAs should help their producers keep in mind corn fungicide fundamentals—even when sky-high prices may impact decision-making more than disease management fundamentals. Earn 0.5 CEUs in Integrated Pest Management by reading the article and taking the quiz at <https://web.sciencesocieties.org/Learning-Center/Courses>.

Cropping practices vary by region, but agronomists we talked with across the Corn Belt agreed on this: More planes and helicopters applied corn fungicides in 2021. Rising corn prices fueled producer willingness to make “insurance” applications to hedge against possible yield losses from foliar disease. Newer disease risks—especially tar spot—also spurred some producers toward a more aggressive spray program to counteract yield risk.



Market realities mean that “insurance” fungicide applications are likely to continue in 2022. “Our standard research-based recommendation is always to scout fields and apply fungicides based on the presence of disease, also considering hybrid susceptibility and field history,” says Pierce Paul, Ohio State University Extension specialist in plant pathology. “But if corn is \$6, even if you only get a three-bushel yield bump, the fungicide might pay for itself,” he says.

New crop corn futures (December 2022 contracts) eclipsed the \$6 mark in late February and March, meaning there will probably be plenty of “insurance” fungicide applications in 2022. “High grain prices mean nobody tends to follow the standard recommendation for corn fungicides,” Paul says.

But crop costs and returns will change, and CCAs should help their producers keep in mind corn fungicide fundamentals—even when sky-high prices may impact decision-making more than disease management fundamentals. In light of 2022 production and market realities, here are some reminders of the best practices for managing corn fungicides.

Hybrid Selection and Field History

Year in and year out, hybrid resistance is one of the best foliar disease guards. “In most cases, if the hybrid is resistant to a certain disease, then you probably don’t want to apply a fungicide for that disease,” Paul says. “But I don’t know of any hybrid resistant to every disease. So you still have to scout and make a decision from there.”

Factoring in hybrid resistance could be a big help in seasons like 2021—and 2022—when supply chain woes have limited availability of some inputs. Field history and topography are also known before planting. “So if you have a susceptible hybrid and field conditions favorable to disease pressure, like river bottom ground or continuous corn, you probably will want to apply that fungicide,” Paul says.



Severe tar spot pressure, as shown here, can lead to 20- to 60-bu yield loss, on average, according to Darcy Telenko, Purdue University. Photo courtesy of Darcy Telenko.

Application Timing

Disease resistance also helps producers manage uncertainty around application timing says Kiersten Wise. The University of Kentucky Extension plant pathologist is based in western Kentucky where southern rust is the foremost foliar disease. “We encourage farmers to use hybrids less susceptible to southern rust,” she says. “You may still need a fungicide application, but your yield loss won’t be as great if your timing is off or you couldn’t get the fungicide on.”

Application of a product with multiple fungicide classes at tasseling (VT) is the “gold standard,” says Wise, lead author of a Crop Protection Network report summarizing foliar fungicide timing and fungicide class on corn yield response in 13 U.S. states and Ontario. “Over a decade of research shows VT is a very effective fungicide application timing in terms of disease control for a broad spectrum of fungal diseases on corn,” she says. “Past research also showed VT timing was most likely to see a positive yield response.”

Since disease pressure and product formulations change, similar multi-state trials are underway to evaluate alternative timings. Data from 2020–2021, to be released this year, will compare VT with a late blister/milk (R2/R3) application. Ongoing trials are comparing VT with pre-tassel applications in response to producer requests. Updates will be released on the Crop Protection Network website (<https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>).

Multiple Applications and Newer Diseases

Newer diseases (think tar spot) also bring yield risks. “With severe tar spot pressure, we are going to see 20- to 60-bushel yield loss, on average. I’ve seen up to 50% yield loss in northern Indiana,” says Darcy Telenko, Purdue University Extension plant pathologist.

Even in areas where tar spot is established, Telenko says producers and CCAs need to remember the basics: whether the disease is (or has been) present in the field and whether the pressure is likely great enough to cause economically significant yield loss.

Telenko says that the single-application rule is still generally true for northern Indiana. “Even for tar spot, it is the rare year that a dual application will pay off,” she says. Last year was that rare year. “Tar spot was confirmed in Indiana July 3, 2021. So the first application for tar spot at a late vegetative stage with a second application three weeks later might have gotten the yield return to pay for that second application,” she says.

Telenko points out that that disease management is never a perfect science in the field. “Producers always have constraints, from weather to what fungicides they were able to order in the fall,” she notes. Producers and CCAs can “fact check” product and

application recommendations against the known research to determine whether the additional investment will pay off.

Plant pathologists and research agronomists also recommend some simple on-farm research with check rows. Side-by-side yield comparison, where fungicides are applied and not applied, can quantify just how big a revenue bump is occurring.

And it's always important to calculate the true costs and returns. The 13-state analysis previously mentioned showed a 60% chance of recouping a \$28/ac fungicide cost (in 2015–2016) if corn was \$5/bu.

Costs and returns—and available product formulations—have since changed. But the established research reinforces the need to demonstrate the true returns from any yield bump that may be attributed to fungicides.

The same strategies for protecting grain yields (scouting, field history, disease presence, and weather) apply when chopping the crop for silage where forage quality and fermentation demand high foliar quality. Like grain yields, not all disease pressure is equal when it comes to silage yield impacts. “Tar spot can overtake a field in a week, really chewing up a silage crop,” says Ohio State’s Pierce Paul.



Ideally, producers would purchase and apply a fungicide after frequent scouting has shown evidence that such a decision is warranted. But the reality on the ground—especially with escalated commodity prices and supply chain snags—is that many producers are going to make advance decisions. Photo by Dave Reede/agefotostock.

Aerial Application

This article was in part prompted by eastern Corn Belt agronomists noticing an uptick in aerial applications in 2021. This was apparently due to southern applicators skipping some regions, moving more quickly north, to fit in more acres. “Unless you had access

to a local aerial applicator, availability was not good. We struggled to get aerial applicators across Kentucky in 2021,” says Kiersten Wise.

The pros and cons of aerial versus ground application are well known. Aerial application gets the product into the field regardless of the corn height or ground wetness, and coverage is faster—a plus for diseases that spread quickly. Although aerial application is a little more expensive—around \$2/ac more than ground application, according to custom farming rate surveys from Iowa and Indiana—the total cost is often comparable to ground application because of differences in product rates.

Managing risk can come down to control, and ground application can give the producer more control—especially when the producer owns the rig or has a good relationship with the applicator. Many experts prefer the coverage from a ground rig. “You spray right over the top, and the fungicide gets into the canopy. The volume that you apply with a highboy is probably a little higher than what is flown on, so you get better coverage,” Paul notes.



Ground application of fungicides can give the producer more control—especially when the producer owns the rig or has a good relationship with the applicator. Many experts prefer the coverage from a ground rig. Photo by Dave Reede/agefotostock.

Relying on a custom applicator—whether in the sky or on the ground—can create timing challenges. “I have seen growers that booked the aerial applications, and the pressure

from tar spot was earlier than expected,” says Purdue’s Telenko. “That meant the well-timed application didn’t go out when it needed to.”

Disease Resistance

Upping fungicide applications for foliar disease can also create a concern for diseases developing resistance to certain active ingredients. While the top corn fungicides are rated high risk in terms of disease resistance, most fungicides are two- or three-way mixtures between products in Group 3 (DMI triazoles), Group 7 (SDHI), and Group 11 (QoI strobilurins).

Using a mixture of two or three products is a good thing. “The risk of developing disease resistance is much lower when you work with mixtures rather than one single active ingredient,” Paul says. But best management practices should still be followed. “Even when it’s a mixture, I maintain you fundamentally increase the risk of resistance if you apply a fungicide that scouting shows is not warranted,” he says.

Telenko recommends using similar caution with multiple fungicide applications. “Yes, multiple applications may provide increased protection during a year when tar spot starts early—I just don’t want to condone that much fungicide going out unless we know that the additional protection is needed,” she says.

The Crop Protection Network updated its side-by-side comparison of fungicide efficacy for control of corn diseases in February 2022. That chart is available at <https://bit.ly/3Kfwt0o>.

Beyond the Ear

Crop observers say that the foliar disease management realities seen in corn—more advanced aerial bookings, “insurance” applications, etc.—are also showing up in soybeans. This was perhaps more true in the eastern Corn Belt in 2021, as an unusually dry summer in Iowa kept frogeye leaf spot and Septoria brown spot at “very low levels at all locations,” according to the Iowa State University fungicide trial report for soybeans.

But the reality on the ground—especially with escalated commodity prices and supply chain snags—is that many producers are going to make advance decisions. “In the ideal world, you’d scout frequently. Then when you see something, or when conditions are favorable for a disease, you’d go purchase your product, line up your applicator, and get that product on right then,” says Kiersten Wise.

But both in and outside Midwest cornfields, the world is not ideal in 2022. “The reality is to get fungicide, you have to have reserved it—maybe in October. And then you have to have a good relationship with your applicators, and they have to be available to you

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

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when you need to apply it. So you might have to make that application reservation ahead of time,” Wise says. “And a lot of times, especially if the money is already spent—you’re going to go through and apply the fungicide in hopes of protecting yield.”

The takeaway for CCAs is to help keep producers from falling into habits that bypass sound science and set up spending patterns that will be unprofitable with different prices. “What helps in a year like 2022 is that corn prices are high,” Wise says. When prices are lower, if application costs are the same or higher, ignoring best management application practices is likely to be far less forgiving on a producer’s bottom line.

WHY INTERSEEDING MIGHT BE THE BOOST COVER CROPS NEED

By Eric Hamilton

Source: <https://www.agronomy.org/news/science-news/why-interseeding-might-be-boost-cover-crops-need>

Fields of amber grain may be the poetic image of American farmland. And it’s true that the U.S. grows plenty of wheat. But fields of yellow grain – corn – may be more accurate.

American farmers harvest nearly five times more corn than wheat. But this productive, useful crop requires fertilizer to reach its maximum potential, and is often not able to take up all the fertilizer it’s given. Excess nitrogen, in particular, can flow away from farms and damage waterways. That lost nitrogen can’t help future crops, either.

This is where [cover crops](#) can help. These plants are grown during the off season to prepare the soil for the following summer.



An interseeded annual ryegrass cover crop established under a corn canopy in August. Interseeding allows cover crops to establish before harvest without hurting crop yields. Recent research shows that interseeding cover crops before harvest can be beneficial. Credit: Sarah Isbell

“The use of cover crops in organic grain systems has many [potential benefits](#),” says Sarah Isbell. “These include improvements in soil quality, increased nutrient retention, [prevention of erosion](#), and suppression of weeds.” Isbell worked on cover

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crop and organic farm research as part of her doctoral degree at Pennsylvania State University. “In organic systems where synthetic inputs are not used, cover crops can be managed to reduce nitrate leaching through soils and supply nitrogen to cash crops.” The study [was published](#) in *Agronomy Journal*, a publication of the American Society of Agronomy.

One major issue for cover crops is determining when to plant them. Cover crop seeds are usually sown after harvesting the primary crop. For corn, this is typically in the fall. This is because fields are uncultivated at this time, so cover crops can access all the resources needed to grow, and farmers can easily access the fields. The problem is crops like corn are harvested late in the season, leaving little time for cover crops to start growing and take effect. Isbell and her team studied an alternative



This tool, the InterSeeder™, can sow cover crops in between rows in a standing crop like corn. Cover crops are grown to provide benefits to the soil and the environment. They can absorb excess fertilizer, keeping it out of waterways. Credit: Sarah Isbell

method: interseeding. This technique sows cover crop seeds in between rows of growing cash crops. That way, the cover crops can start growing, ready to take off when they get more sun after harvest. In an experiment at a Pennsylvania research site, the team compared the effects of interseeding versus post-harvest planting of cover crops with corn. Some of the corn was harvested for grain, while other plots were harvested for silage.

“We found that the interseeded ryegrass cover crops had potential to retain as much nitrogen as a post-harvest seeded cereal rye cover crop,” says Isbell. The interseeded cover crops did especially well under certain conditions. For example, when there was excess nitrogen in the soil, they flourished. And they also did well when they had lots of unshaded time to grow. Silage corn is harvested earlier than grain corn, giving cover crops more time in the autumn sun to grow. The interseeded system worked best with silage harvests.

“Importantly, we found no effect of cover crop treatments on corn yield,” says Isbell.

Her team also studied how cover crops changed the soil microbes. Soil contains many kinds of live microbes. A diverse soil ecosystem can benefit crops in many ways.

“We found that, in the spring, the interseeded treatments with a high nitrogen application level had higher microbial biomass than other treatments,” Isbell says. Yet, they didn’t see as big of an effect on cover crops as they expected. “It may take several years of cover crop treatments to change the microbial ecosystem”, Isbell says.



Isbell hopes farmers see the benefits of interseeding. Under the right conditions, this technique could provide the best bang for the buck without hurting crop yields.

“Incorporating cover crops into cropping systems in innovative ways, such as interseeding, provides a great opportunity to implement productive farming systems and decrease nutrient pollution,” says Isbell. “It is important to understand the tradeoffs of different cover cropping strategies, and to use this knowledge to get the most benefit out of cover cropping on each individual farm.”

This research was supported in part by a Northeast SARE grant: GNE16-122-29994. Isbell’s research was completed in the Jason Kaye Biogeochemistry Lab Group in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Pennsylvania State University.

Lee’s Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County! I can’t believe that summer is rapidly coming to an end. Although COVID numbers are starting to rise again, this summer felt a little more “normal”. Fair, camps, vacations, and other summer activities made the time fly by.

Unusually dry weather provided ample time this year to get outside to enjoy the outdoors, complete some projects, and find other recreational opportunities. As you may

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Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

notice in your own yard, the dry weather does come with a cost. Approximately 77% of Trumbull County is currently in a D0 drought, which is classified as “Abnormally Dry” by the US Drought Monitor (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). Conditions during a D0 drought are classified by short term dry periods that will slow crop progress and has the potential to impact longer term water deficits. Water deficits are quite easy to see this year with crunchy grass, stressed plants, and short crops.

Corn in Trumbull County is currently pollinating or has just passed pollination. This period in crop development is critical for a good yield at harvest time and requires adequate moisture. Little to no water will result in ears of corn with the end kernels not developing and the remainder of the kernels will be smaller. Losing a few kernels on an ear may not seem like a big deal, but over the county we are likely to see a 10% (or more) decrease in corn yield this year. As I’ve written about before, input prices for planting crops were very high this year, and crop prices have dropped so every kernel matters.

Our soybeans are stressed as well, but if we get some rains for the rest of this month, we may have an average crop yield. Soybeans are currently pollinating, and just like corn, water is important to fill the soybeans in the pod. Yield is measured in bushels, which is a volume, so the larger the soybean or corn kernel, the more bushels you will get per acre. For perspective, a bushel is 9.3 gallons, or two almost full five-gallon buckets. Any yield loss this year, is a decrease in the farmers paycheck.


It's not just the farmers that are struggling with the dry weather. Gardeners, landscapers, and homeowners are all finding ways to keep their plants watered. In our office we have seen many drought related issues in trees, vegetables, and ornamentals over the past three weeks. Specifically, we have seen an unusually high number of requests to look at trees that are dying. Dry weather alone will not cause too much alarm for an established tree, but when the dry weather is coupled with stress from disease or damage that is when we see leaves drop and other symptoms that cause concern. Tar spot of maple and oak gall wasp are yearly pests that are usually overlooked because of the minimal damage they cause, but we have had several inquiries this year because the dry weather is making the pests more apparent than normal.

If you have questions about plant diseases, or general gardening questions our Ask an Expert Hotline is available every Monday morning from 9AM to 11:30AM at our office in Cortland. No appointment is necessary, you can stop in with a plant sample or give us a call, our Master Gardener Volunteers are here to help.

One final note for this month. Please stay alert for spotted lanternfly. We are getting reports that infestations are being found throughout the Mahoning Valley. If you find one, or think you found one, call our office at 330-638-6783, or send me a picture at

beers.66@osu.edu. You can read more about Spotted Lanterfly here:
<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/slf>.

Take care and enjoy the remainder of your summer!

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Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Training

Hosted by:

**Ohio State University Extension Offices of
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties**

What is OCVN:

The OCVN program is a research-based education program of The Ohio State University offered in partnership with several host locations, such as, park districts and OSU Extension offices. The OCVN program emphasizes hands-on natural resource and environmental education coupled with volunteer service. Participants in the OCVN program receive 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction. Upon completing the OCVN course, participants provide 40 hours of volunteer service at any Ohio organization with a compatible program mission.



The 40-hour instruction course will be offered as a combination of online and in person programming. The course will include readings, discussion forums, quizzes, optional homework, and live Zoom sessions. There are two field days at the Camp Whitewood and Trumbull County Extension Office/ Mosquito Lake State Park.

OCVN Mission:

To promote awareness and community stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service.

Training starts September 27th and ends November 13th with zoom trainings each Tuesday from 6:00 – 9:00 PM and two all day Saturday trainings on October 8th & 29th

Spaces in the 2022 course will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Course size is limited so please contact us as soon as possible if interested.

You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

Total Cost: \$250

<https://go.osu.edu/ocvn22>



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[ocvn.osu.edu](https://go.osu.edu/ocvn22)

**CFAES**

The Ohio State University Portage County Extension Office

Starts August 31st!

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Course

The mission of the **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN)** program is to build awareness of Ohio's environment and natural resources through science-based education and community stewardship.

The OCVNs role is to support partners in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of natural resources by assisting with educational programs.

Activities Include:

- Identifying and educating the public about invasive species
- Diagnosing plant problems
- Giving public presentations relating to nature
- Hosting events for the public
- Staffing educational booths and other various opportunities

Program Benefits:

- Learn about the biology, ecology and natural history of Ohio from many of the state's leading experts.
- Become part of a local and statewide network of dedicated volunteers.
- Apply your talents and passion to protecting, restoring and understanding Ohio's natural treasures.

If you have a strong interest in nature and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES*— We Sustain Life —***Portage.osu.edu**

OCVN Training

The course sessions are taught by faculty and staff with The Ohio State University along with conservation and naturalist professionals throughout Ohio.

Topics include:

- Soil, Geology and Watersheds
- Ecology and Stewardship
- Botany & Forests
- Entomology & Herpetology
- Ornithology & Mammals
- Working with the public & communication skills

You will learn how to contribute to community science efforts, restore and protect critical habitats, and communicate effectively about Ohio's environment while exploring parks and natural areas near you.



Application Process

- Spaces in the class will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Class size is limited to 25 participants.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

Registration is \$225.00 due within two weeks of admission to the program. The price includes a binder manual, additional handouts, state fees and related costs for conducting the program.

To apply go to <https://osu.edu/portageocvn2022> or scan the QR code.

Return applications by August 3rd to Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension.



Certification Requirements

To become an Ohio Certified Volunteer

Naturalist, you must:

- ✓ Complete 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction
- ✓ Perform 40 hours of approved volunteer service within the first year
- ✓ After certification, 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training are required annually



The Grassroots of Grazing

Pasture Management Workshop

Saturday, September 10, 2022

10 am - 3 pm

Connor Farms in Troy Township

17037 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021

COST: \$10 per person and includes lunch

Brought to
you by:



Geauga Soil and Water
Conservation District



GEAUGA COUNTY

**Don't Miss Out ~
Greener Pastures Ahead!**

Learn more about pasture management and pasture-based livestock production in this exciting workshop & walk at Connor Farms in Troy Township. Gain knowledge, ideas, and inspiration from some of the buckeye state's most "moo'ing" presenters from ODA – Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Martin Joyce and nationally recognized Grazing Specialist Bob Hendershot, along with other local herdsman and resource professionals. We will explore animal nutrition, rotational grazing, forage and weed identification, and pasture and hay management. A delicious lunch of grass-fed burgers from the farm is included in the registration cost. Space is limited and anyone interested in better pastures is welcome!

Rain or Shine! Please come prepared for this outdoor program.
We will continue to follow current state guidelines for Covid-19 safety.

Advanced Registration & Payment Required by September 5th

Register Now!

Questions? geaugaswcd.com



440-834-1122



gprunty@geaugaswcd.com