

# Mild winter means more Stewart's wilt

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — An unusually mild winter in some regions may promote a greater incidence of Stewart's wilt in 1981 corn fields, especially in areas hit by the disease in 1980, says Michael Turner, Funk Seeds International manager of entomology and plant pathology.

"If the corn disease shows up early and at a high enough rate, it can cause significant damage," he says. "One clue to the possible severity of an outbreak is the

preceeding winter's weather."

Primary transmitters of Stewart's wilt are black, pinhead-sized corn flea beetles, which carry the bacteria within their bodies during winter. When they come out of hibernation in spring the insects begin feeding on corn plants as well as other corn relatives, opening wounds through which the disease passes.

Turner says a cold winter, or one with a lot of alternate freezing and thawing, results in higher insect

kill, thus reducing the damage potential for the following season.

"On the other hand, a mild winter, like the one experienced this year is much of the country, would result in a higher overwintering flea beetle population," he adds.

Chemical control of the insect is not a sure-fire method of combating the disease, Turner says, because flea beetles travel and can spread into the field from nearby weeds and other infested fields.

"Cultural practices which might help reduce infection include rotating corn with another crop, such as soybeans, and plowing down disease-infested debris," Turner suggests.

"The best control of Stewart's wilt comes from using tolerant hybrids, however," he says, "that's been the recommended control method for the last 30 years."

Also called bacterial wilt, Stewart's wilt is a vascular disease

which plugs up water-carrying channels of the corn plant. The whole plant may wilt and die, even with plenty of water in the soil.

Characteristic symptoms appear as long, pale green streaks with irregular margins. They develop along the leaf veins throughout the growing season. If infection is severe, streaks join together and entire leaves dry up and die. Light, poorly filled ears may result, lowering yield.



## Meet your American Banker.



Your American Bankers: William Hughes, Gene Richard

### He comes face-to-face with your day-to-day business.

The best thing any banker can do for a farmer is understand his day-to-day needs. That's why the Agri-Business Department at American Bank is so successful with local farmers. Our people have a farming background, so when they come out to see you, they speak your language.

Since the turn of the century, American Bank has had a special kinship with farmers and their land. Over the years we've kept pace with their needs with loans

for livestock, new equipment, construction and remodeling. As times and needs changed, we helped with lines of credit and operating capital. Today, we're still maintaining that pace with additional financial services like trusts, retirement and estate planning, and savings and checking accounts.

If your present banker doesn't see eye-to-eye, maybe what you need is an American Banker. Just give us a call at (215) 375-5993. We'll talk it over, face-to-face.

Good bankers Good neighbors

**AMERICAN BANK**  
A FULL SERVICE BANK MEMBER FDIC



With over 68 offices throughout Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh and Schuylkill Counties.

**END O' RAT**



KILLS RATS and MICE

**End O' Rat Co.**

Rd 1 Box 668  
New Holland, PA  
17557  
717-354-2340

**Made for comfort.**



B-947  
You've earned your Wings!

**Red Wings**

BOOKS

SHOE SERVICE  
107 E. STATE ST  
QUARRYVILLE, PA  
17566  
717-786-2795  
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS



Let Us Know Your Service Problems  
**HOOVER DIESEL SERVICE**  
PH 717-656-6133  
2998 West Newport Rd  
Ronks, PA 17572



a beautiful way to save electricity

The Enertech 1500 plugfree and renewable wind energy into your household electric system

Send \$1 for our 16 page brochure with details on sites, endurance tests, tax credits and more



Energy Reduction Service  
398-8011  
P.O. Box 20, York, PA 17408