

Seed Treatments Give Soybeans Edge Against Fungus

DEKALB, Ill. — Fungi carried with seed or in the soil can impair soybean stands and reduce yields, reports a seed company agronomist. That's why a growing number of seed companies are offering a variety of fungicide treatments for soybean seed.

Bob McCauley, regional agronomist for DEKALB-PFIZER GENETICS, says, "Seed treatment with fungicides is always good insurance against these problems." Such treatments will have greatest benefits where low seeding rates are used and where delays in germination or emergence are likely.

During the developmental stage between seed germination and seedling establishment, the soybean plant often requires chemical protection from seed rots and seedling blights. Particularly if the soils are cold and wet or excessively dry, the rate of germination and seedling emergence is retarded, McCauley observes. The seed and seedlings are more susceptible to fungi attack.

Some of the soybean fungicides have familiar names - like captan and thiram - which are used on seed corn and other crop seeds, the agronomist adds. These protective fungicides are used routinely and provide protection against many seed rot and seedling blight organisms.

"Newer fungicides, such as metalaxyl (Apron), have systemic-type activity and are absorbed into the plant's system,

protecting the plant from within and are directed toward specific problems," McCauley continues. "Metalaxyl, for example, controls *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* seedling blight, and should be used where these diseases are likely to be important, especially on soybean

varieties with field tolerance to *Phytophthora*."

The agronomist states Vitavax-200 contains two fungicides - carboxin and thiram - which help control seed-borne fungal diseases such as *Phomopsis* (pod and stem blight). "carboxin also will

provide better control of *Phytophthora* seed rot and damping off than other fungicides," he says.

The costs of soybean seed treatments vary, depending on the fungicide chosen. McCauley observes that almost all treatments can be paid for by a one bushel per

acre yield increase.

These costs are low when one considers the true costs of replanting. "Costs of replanting include not just seed, fuel, machinery, and labor but also the yield penalty for late planting," the agronomist points out.

Tax Time Is Time To Aid Wildlife

HARRISBURG — It's tax time again, but this year there is something "Wild" on the Pennsylvania tax forms. Line 19C on the long form and line 10C on the short form gives you the opportunity to help protect Pennsylvania's reptiles, amphibians, native wild plants, and nongame wildlife. These two lines enables you to contribute all or part of your state tax refund to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

This fund has been established by the state legislature to help finance nongame wildlife and wild plant programs carried out by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Game Commission, and Department of Environmental Resources. Your contribution will help fund projects in Pennsylvania to reestablish a population of ospreys and river otters. Field studies will be undertaken to collect information on rare amphibians and reptiles and help prevent some three dozen fishes, amphibians, and reptiles from becoming endangered.

Thirty-four states have adopted

similar tax checkoff funded programs for nongame wildlife. However, Pennsylvania's Act 1982-170 is unique in that it is the only program which has included wild plants. Important research on Pennsylvania's native flora is underway to identify and protect special wild plant populations. This Act also provides for the purchase of habitat vital to the survival of endangered and threatened species of both plant and wildlife.

Historically, license fees paid by sportsmen have financed the operation of the Fish Commission and Game Commission. Though many nongame species benefit from game management practices, the Wild Resource Conservation Fund provides an opportunity for all Pennsylvanians, not just the sportsmen, to share in the effort to protect nongame wildlife and rare plants.

If you do not receive a refund, or if you wish to give more than your refund amount, you may contribute directly to the fund. A check or money order made

payable to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund may be mailed to: P.O. Box 1467N, Room A1-85, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Your contribution, whether by tax refund or direct contribution, is tax deductible and may be claimed on your Federal return next year.

Tax overpayments of \$1 or less are not normally refunded by the Department of Revenue; however, overpayments of less than a dollar

can be donated to the fund. Any amount helps, even amounts less than a dollar when added together can mean a lot to the program.

Look for the Owl and the words "Do Something Wild" on your tax form instructions.

For further information write: Wild Resource Conservation Fund, P.O. Box 1467N, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Insurance Agency Appoints Manager

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — Dennis J. Hewston has joined Rhulen Agency, Inc., and assumed the position of farm division manager. The announcement was made by Peter L. Rhulen, president of the agency.

Headquartered in Monticello, New York, the Rhulen Agency is North America's largest equine-related insurance specialist with 330 employees and a nationwide network of branch offices.

Before joining Rhulen, Hewston was director of underwriting for an



Dennis J. Hewston

equine insurer. Prior to that, he had served as assistant vice-president/product management for the INA Farm Center and state manager for Insurance Services Office in Delaware and Maryland.

Hewston is a graduate of East Carolina University from which he holds a bachelor of arts degree in Geography. He is also a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), a member of the International Arabian Horse Association and the Old Dominion Arabian Horse Association.

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