

Crop Observation

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more prone to yield losses from this leaf disease than others due to the predominant production practices and environmental conditions. Generally, the severity of the disease is related to reduced tillage, especially in fields planted continuously to corn. During years with exceptionally warm and humid weather, gray leaf spot can become important throughout the state as in 1995.

Control of the disease has been achieved through the use of resistant hybrids, tillage to destroy corn residues and adequate crop rotation with soybeans, wheat or forage crops. Where conservation tillage is used, a two year rotation away from corn is necessary because the fungus survives in corn residues left on the soil surface for up to two years.

Fungicides are available for use on corn to control GLS, but the economics of corn production have not permitted common use of these materials except on sweet corn, pop corn or seed corn. Fungicide applications have been evaluated in Ohio for control of GLS on field corn. During the growing seasons of 1996 through 2000, the yield response due to fungicide application on susceptible hybrids ranged from two to 32 bushels per

acre. Obviously, the greatest yield responses occurred during years with highest disease pressure (1996 = 27 bushels per acre, 1997 = 2 bushels per acre, 1998 = 32 bushels per acre, 1999 = 19 bushels per acre, 2000 = 2 bushels per acre).

There are two fungicides labeled for control of GLS on corn, Tilt 3.6 EC and Quadris 2.08 SC. Tilt (2.0 - 4.0-ounces per acre) is labeled for control of several foliar diseases through end of silking (R2 stage of growth). Quadris Flowabale Fungicide recently received a federal label for control of several foliar diseases on corn at 6.2-9.2 fluid ounce per acre applied at disease onset, and can be until

seven days of harvest. Other directions and restrictions are described on the labels.

Both of these fungicides are labeled for more than one application during the growing season, but due to the relatively low price of corn, multiple applications during the growing season is cost prohibitive. In Ohio and other states, two applications of Tilt or Quadris has provided better disease control than one, but in most tests there was no significant additional yield benefit from the second application. It appears that the most economical use of these products on susceptible hybrids is a single application. Tilt has provided the best results when applied at the V14 to R2 growth stage using the 4.0 fluid ounce per acre rate. Quadris appears to benefit from a slightly earlier



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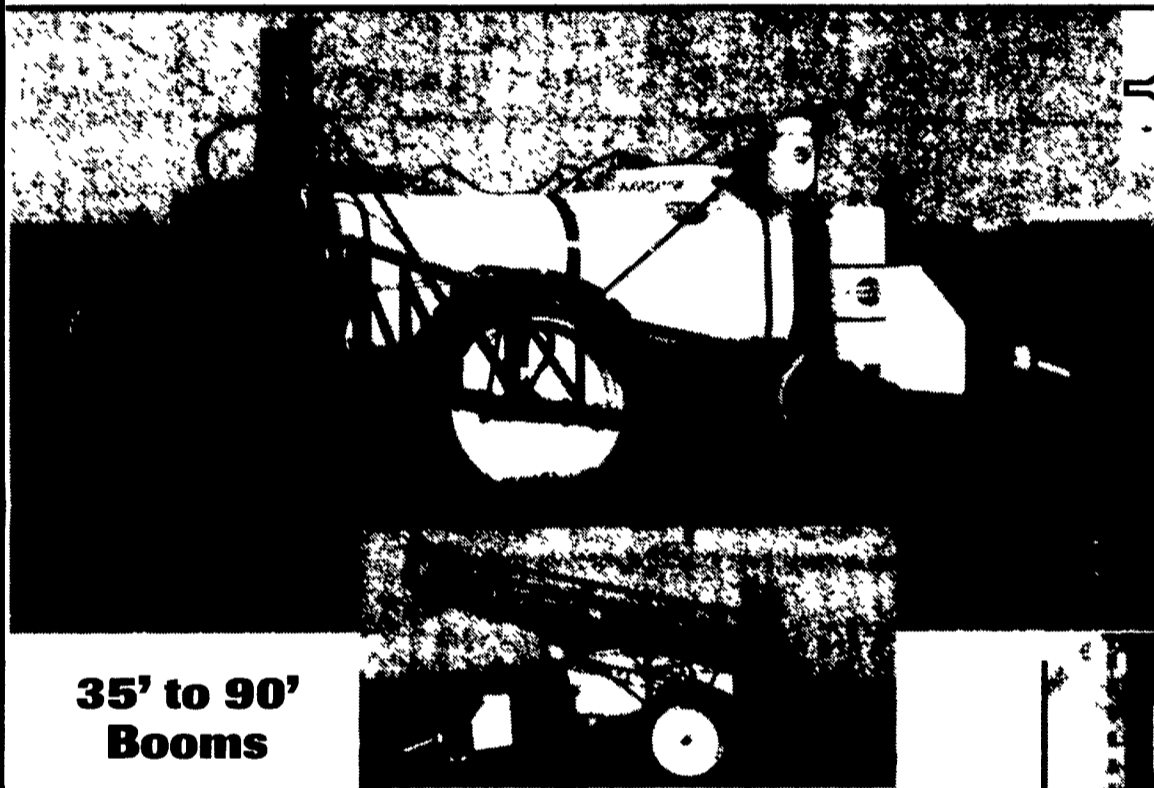
application. Apply Quadris from V10- V14 growth stage using 9.2 fluid ounce per acre. The label suggests that an adjuvant be added to improve coverage. When using ground equipment add drop nozzles to improve coverage of the leaves at and above the ear. We recommend treating susceptible hybrids; not hybrids with some degree of resistance to GLS.

In several (though not all) tests, Quadris provided superior disease control to that provided by Tilt. Thus, in terms of efficacy against gray leaf spot, Quadris may prove

to be the better choice. However, because Quadris is used at an application rate over twice that of Tilt, the per-acre cost of Quadris is about twice as high as that of Tilt.



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