

# Early Fungicides Pay

*Disease Control, Improved Plant Growth Are Benefits Of Treatment*

**BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER**

MidAmerica Farmer Grower

**PERRYVILLE, MO.**

**A**pplying fungicides in corn at the early vegetative stages is proving to be of benefit, according to Rex Wichert, Quadris and Quilt Xcel fungicides brand manager at Syngenta.

"We first started looking at early fungicide applications in 2009," he said.

Extensive trials were conducted that first year; then in 2010, on-farm grower trials began. There were 160 on-farm commercial trials in which the yields of untreated crops and those treated with Quadris at 6 oz. per acre were compared.

"We saw a number of things," Wichert said. "We observed better disease control, improved plant growth and greening, and root development. Along the lines of disease control, we were able to control the early diseases, such as anthracnose; we also delayed some late-season

diseases as well."

There also were two combined benefits – better standability and increased stalk strength.

"In 166 trials we had a six bushel per acre average yield increase," he added. "We tended to see more of an increase on the crops that ordinarily would have contracted anthracnose, and on those where we had responsive hybrids. Where we tended to see those early diseases before were primarily in no-till conditions or in continuous corn fields."

The trials were conducted to find a way to protect the corn plant in the early stages when it begins setting the maximum yield.

"The better that plant is doing in terms of vigor in the early stages, the better it starts determining those yield parameters," Wichert added.

Data from these trials are available at [www.PlantPerformance.com](http://www.PlantPerformance.com).

*BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*

**AGROTAIN**

Link Directly To: **AGROTAIN**



Link Directly To: **TANNER SEED CO.**