

Fungicides Best Used At Reproductive Stage

DR. PAUL VINCELLI



LEXINGTON, KY.

Some corn growers feel that fungicides are an important part of their production system, especially for fields with significant disease pressure. If using a fungicide, one of the most important decisions is, when to apply it? If applying an herbicide anywhere during V4-V8, it certainly would be tempting to include a fungicide, since there are no additional application costs to including the fungicide. However, the clear pattern of research trials so far is that significantly better results are obtained by applying that same fungicide at VT through R1 instead of earlier.

The growth-promoting effects of strobilurin

fungicides like Headline, Quadris, etc., are too inconsistent and unpredictable to justify using a fungicide for that reason. This is true whether applying during vegetative stages or at VT/R1.

What about disease control? If that is your objective, studies typically show that the single application around silking gives you the most “bang for your buck”. Early applications just don’t seem to have much impact on disease development during grain fill.

What about two applications, one at V4-V8 and another at reproduction? Again, the research I’ve seen shows no consistent benefit to the early application. It is much better to use one application at VT-R1, then any other timing program. Δ

DR. PAUL VINCELLI: Extension Professor and Provost’s Distinguished Service, University of Kentucky



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