

Missouri Farm Tour Features New Three-In-One Corn Seed Treatment

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Bill Dean, Bill Dean Jr. and Mark Dean of Double D Farms in Morley, Missouri recently hosted a 2009 Syngenta Seed Care plot tour. The main focus of the tour was corn nematode research and the newest seed treatment combination from Syngenta Seed Care, Avicta® Complete Corn. A large group of Southeast Missouri farmers were in attendance.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, a service of the USDA, the 2009 growing season presented ideal conditions for needle nematodes. Late-planted corn will not escape damage. "The nematodes remain active in the soil and wait for the young seedlings, and invade their young roots soon after germination."

Nematodes cause root damage, aid in the transmission of viruses, and facilitate bacterial and fungal infections. Visual damage; discoloration, stunting and reduction in stalk diameter and root weight are sometimes misdiagnosed as herbicide injury, drought stress, disease and/or micronutrient deficiencies. Accurate identification can be made through collection and analysis of soil and root samples.

Called the hidden pest, a single nematode can pack a big punch. Dr. David Long, Technical Crop Manager, Syngenta Seed Care, explained, "nematodes attack the roots. Endoparasitic nematodes embed themselves into the roots. Ectoparasitic nematodes feed from the outside of the roots. The nematode that is going to do the most damage in this region is probably the root knot nematode. We also hear about needle and the sting nematodes."

Long has been touring corn country to spread the word about Avicta® Complete Corn. "We have field plots across the country for this new product. It is a seed treatment that is Syngenta's answer to complete early-season protection from nematodes, insects and diseases."

Avicta® Complete Corn combines an Avicta brand seed treatment nematicide with an increased rate of Cruiser® seed treatment insecticide and the industry's most robust seed treatment fungicide package (Apron XL, Maxim XL and Dynasty).

"The fungicide portion of Avicta Complete Corn will help you get your plant out of the ground," stated Long.

Secondly, Avicta Corn Complete addresses early-season insects. Long explained, "the elevated rate of Cruiser® is actually equivalent to what we call Cruiser® 500; this will be great on chinch bugs, wireworms and many of the early-season chewing insects that really cause us problems in corn."

"Lastly, we have the first seed treatment nematicide in corn that will give us protection against all the nematodes that are becoming problems," Long continued.

Early testing in Louisiana led to the elevated Cruiser® rates according to Long, "we worked with the rates to make sure we can take care of the pests in different geographies. In the South we have the worst insect pressure. We have a lot more chewing and sucking insects than we do in the Midwest so we need elevated Cruiser® rates."

"The nematicide has the same active ingredient, abamectin, as a product we sell currently in cotton called Avicta® Complete Cotton," Long said. "Avicta® Complete Corn has about 30 percent more abamectin than Avicta Complete Cotton."

Testing in the South started five years ago. Large plot testing began three years ago. Long said he has been actively testing with region ne-

matologists. "In Missouri, as well as Tennessee and Arkansas, we are seeing nice yield increases. It has shown, about a 5.3 percent yield bump using Avicta® Complete Corn over what we see with just the Cruiser® without Avicta."

Chad Stone, Crop Manager, Syngenta Seed Care said Syngenta is the first company to offer triple protection against nematodes, insects and diseases. "This is the first year that we will commercially sell Avicta® Complete Corn and we have several hundred trials across the Midwest



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Photo by John LaRose

and Southern United States. Most major seed companies are testing Avicta® Complete Corn this year in large trials."

Avicta R Complete Corn will be available to any seed company for the 2010 planting season. "Several seed companies are putting out large seed plot trials this year. Our hope is that if you are growing corn and you want to use Avicta® Complete Corn, just go to your retailer or seed company and say 'I want Avicta® Complete Corn,'" said Long.

"The key with Avicta R Complete Corn is the early-season protection. During the first four to seven weeks many of your yield components are set. You do not ever get back that first 30 days. We are seeing that when a grower uses Avicta® Complete Corn, we are seeing a more vigorous plant. In some regions we have seen that the root structure looks healthier and larger than the untreated roots. We are also seeing a height advantage of about two to three inches. Ultimately this has led to a nice nematode reduction in fields and a 5.3 percent yield increase," explained Long.

Growers may not know they have nematodes. Long explained soil samples are the only definitive way to be certain. "We found pretty much every corn-growing county has nematodes. A grower needs to figure out the amount of nematodes needed to cause damage in his field. Growers can find that out by conducting soil samples in his fields. Otherwise, if he just feels he is losing yields and he does not know why, high yields in one part of the field and lower in another part. Maybe he has blamed it on the soil being just not right, it may be nematodes. Nematodes are in the ground, we cannot see them; they are a hidden pest. A hidden pest, if protected against, has the potential to give you a five percent yield increase." Δ

For more information visit www.avictacomplete.com.

Avicta® Complete Corn is a Restricted Use Pesticide.

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