

Specialist Gives Some Late Season Crop Considerations

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WOW! It seems strange to discuss late-season crop strategies and have to admit that we only recently finished planting the crop. The 2008 season has presented a number of unexpected events, and we are not done yet.

Crop planning is dynamic in that it is an ever-changing, continuous process. Weather, markets, pests and inputs all change quickly! A good crop producer and manager is always fine-tuning the plan. Hopefully, things have slowed down a bit, and you can take some time to study your operation.

What worked and what did not? Some farmers have good weed control, and others have apparent challenges with waterhemp and marehail. If your weed control is out of control, a comprehensive plan will be required for next season.

Even with late planted corn, it is time to check on pollination and the progress of grain fill. Corn growth and development is quite predictable and extremely dependent upon weather conditions.

Do remember that many soybean herbicides have significant pre-harvest intervals stated on the label. There are several products that re-

quire a 45- to 90-day wait after application. Also, remember that most soybean herbicide labels do not permit haying or grazing. A few exceptions include Basagran, 30 days; First Rate, 14 days; and some glyphosate products, up to 14 days.

If the late, wet spring caused you to skip fertilizer application, consider a fall after-harvest application on non-erodible fields. Soil tests should be up to date, and current fertilizer pricing dictates that you have the best possible information.

Wheat growers know that planting time may be as little as two months away. Illinois wheat variety testing information and results are now available

at: <http://vt.crops.uiuc.edu/wheat.html>

Summer meetings, field days and plot tours are an important source of information. The Illinois Wheat Forum is scheduled for August 18 in Highland. The University of Illinois campus Agronomy Day will be August 21. And, Ewing Field Day is set for Thursday, September 11.

For many farmers, harvest will be a little later this year; remember that National Farm Safety & Health Week will be observed September 21 through 27. The very appropriate theme is Farm Safety... Protect Your Investment. Δ

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