

A close-up photograph of a cornfield with vibrant green leaves, serving as the background for the title section.

THE TOTAL SPECTRUM

A Weekly Blog Covering All Things Spectrum Non-GMO



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LATE SEASON PLANT HEALTH?

Too many of us write off plants toward the end of the season. As one farmer recently said, “It is what it is at this point.” And while that statement is true there are still valuable lessons one can learn from late season plant health. Here, we have gathered a few of our favorite questions to ask as we wrap up late season scouting.

- **Would a fungicide investment have paid off?** If you’re seeing Grey Leaf Spot or Northern Corn Leaf Blight and premature plant death, the answer is yes.
- **Could early harvest be necessary?** The answer is yes if stalk quality is compromised by anthracnose, fusarium, or diplodia stalk rots.
- **Could tar spot be an issue?** This is a newer corn disease that can rob yield potential in a big way if the infection sets in early.
- **Has Goss’s Wilt been an issue?** This bacterial disease can’t be controlled by fungicide.
- **Do you suspect European Corn Borer?** If you’re finding weakened stalks and/or ear shanks, the answer could be yes.
- **What about corn root worm?** Fields hit by corn root worm will have damaged roots and corn may not stand up much longer.

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FROM THE FIELD REPORT

Harvest is gearing up and we know some of you have already started! Here around the home office, we have started to see guys open up bean fields and we imagine that everyone will be in full swing next week.

In the meantime, here are a few updates we've collected this week:

Summitville, Indiana: The Spectrum 3.2 Non-GMO soybeans are healthy and have produced a lot of pods. See image below.

Loyal, Wisconsin: Spectrum 4642 coming in with impressive tonnage! See image below.

Rolling Prairie, Indiana: 5452 filling out nicely. See image below.



5452 in Rolling Prairie, IN



Silage in Loyal, WI



3.2 beans in Summitville, IN

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LATE SEASON PLANT HEALTH

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- **Was premature ear declination an issue in corn?** Severe drought can cause the ear to drop down as the ear shank collapses from hot and dry weather stresses. This can cut off moisture and nutrient supply to the kernels, resulting in yield reductions due to light test weight grain.
- **Was the fertility program sufficient?** Nutrient deficiency symptoms on leaves will be a strong indicator that fertility issues compromised plant health. While these issues can be caught earlier in the season, if clues are present late in the season, this is a good indicator that you may need to pull soil samples to determine what nutrients are low and require improvement before the next crop.
- **Did ear rot set in?** The presence of ear rot can alter your timing for harvest.

One last thought: as you scout late season plant health, pay attention to weed pressure. Did your controls work as expected? If not, you'll want to adjust your program for better control next season.

BREEDER SPOTLIGHT

This week Scott Johnson, Spectrum Non-GMO's breeder, is sharing thoughts on a hybrid he feels deserves a few minutes in the spotlight.

"Time to talk to those of you that are using full season hybrids. I figure you'll be looking at yield data very soon and we've got a number you really need to think about for next year. Spectrum's 6775 is a 117-day hybrid that like to call a "beast!" I've always been impressed with the overall health of this plant--it is very healthy. This plant stands out with its native tolerance disease pressure especially against Northern Leaf Blight. I may be biased, after all, 6775 was a research standout in 2018 but it is just that good. Expect a large flex ear and flexibility on your planting population. Finally, 6775 will be at home on a variety of soil types and is a good option for your corn-after-corn acres."



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Our first photo of Spectrum Non-GMO being harvested!

Submitted by: Whitney Knoy
Tipton, Indiana