



# CROP SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Volume #10 Issue #15 July 9, 2018

## The lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

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Most of us have heard the term, “Lazy hazy crazy days of summer.” Anyone in agriculture knows this phrase does not ring true to farm life. Summers can be hazy, but never lazy.



Sixty plus years ago, weed control took up endless days of manual labour, such as hoeing and cultivating. Many farm operations also had livestock, which involved daily chores, baling hay or straw, etc.

Today is similar in ways, especially if livestock is still part of the operation, however things are more mechanized. Although this means we can be more productive, we don't seem to be less busy. We have more ways to manage our time effectively, but ultimately, we need to manage yield and remain competitive and profitable as business owners, using today's technology and products.



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Prioritizing of management activities is crucial for success in an endlessly busy season. There are critical times of crop staging where we need to be extra diligent. Especially when we are protecting yield potential. There are times of the year when properly identifying threats and taking appropriate measures is required.

June 21, the first day of summer, when our daylight hours start getting shorter, is a time that triggers most plants to begin their reproductive cycle. In the case of soybeans, flowering will start in a few weeks' time, and corn tassels soon appear.

This is also the time when fungicides and possibly insecticides are most effective to help protect crops from yield-robbing pests and improve quality of grain.

- Field scouting will identify any possible issues in the field prior to becoming a major problem – advance protection of your crop is good time management.
- Soil sampling can be done effectively during the summer. Consider our AIS system for grid or zone sampling done on wheat fields after harvest.
- Crop protection involves a number of approaches:
  - I. weed control will protect yield and reduce plant competition for resources and reduce the size of the seed weed bank in your soil a good stewardship practice
  - II. prevent crop damage by insects and pests – bean leaf beetles, western bean cutworm, corn rootworm or earworm, to mention a few
  - III. fertilizer and micro elements in the form of foliar sprays help supplement soil deficiencies brought on by various abiotic stresses.

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- Make time for educational opportunities. Take advantage of:
  - I. crop tours of new and upcoming soybean varieties, corn hybrids, seed treatments, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides such as MiField Plot day August 23
  - II. best practice cropping practices, such as cover crops, tillage, etc.

Enjoy the summer, because before you know it, the fall and winter months will be here!

We are here to help. Contact your local AGRIS Co-operative or Wanstead Farmers Co-operative locations to access the latest knowledge, services and products to meet your requirements.

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