

# CORN -CRIB *notes*



Welcome to the Corn Crib,

I know most of you know that a Corn Crib was/is used to store and dry corn still on the cob and maybe some of you remember that Crib Notes were a cheat sheet you would use when heading into an exam. I hope this Newsletter will be a great storage area for items of interest and a bit of a cheat sheet for those who are learning about all things corn. It is for the Thunder Seed/Quarry Seed Dealer network.

This will be a Quarterly publication: Sales Season, Seeding, Scouting (now) & Harvest. We want to be able to provide Corn seed support to the group through information, updates, and shared experience. Although I will be sharing what I am seeing, I would also ask that dealers who have something to share from their location please send it through to my attention so we can see it in the "Dealer's Desk".

I will send the Corn Crib Notes digitally but I can make it available in print. It will also be kept on line at both the Quarry Seed and Thunder Seed websites. Note that currently, both those websites are undergoing overhauls.



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## Fertilizer



Had a farmer call us to the field and what we saw was some TH4578 looking great in the headland and looking like a different plant through the center of the field. Soil tests are in but the obvious answer is that their fertilizer placement was not even throughout this field. Obviously fertilizer is important any time you are growing something but when there are adverse conditions, like leaching or cool temps fertilizer becomes that much more important. For this client, we will recommend a nutrient application which he either will or won't accept. If he elects not to, I am going to sample and weigh plants from the headland and from the troubled area at seasons end.

## Hard Times

A photo from Souris, MB demonstrates some of the difficulties the Prairies are experiencing right now. Here we see standing water, small plants (late May plant) with orange stems/core. These plants are fighting for their lives – literally trying to tread water. The potential production value or loss is totally dependent on what Mother Nature will bring next.





## Sulphur

I would like to be able to not speak about rain through this whole publication just to give many of you a break from it but I can't. Unseasonable wet, cool weather is wreaking havoc, again, on much of the Prairies. Rather than focus on loss and frustration, Ron Gendzelevich of Quarry Seed wanted to touch base on Sulphur.

Wet weather can cause leaching of nutrients and most people immediately assume that Nitrogen will be the big loss to their corn plant but stop for a moment. In a basic fertilizer placement, 100 – 150 lbs of N/acre is placed on your corn growing land, however only 10 – 20 lbs of Sulphur is supplied to that same area. In terms of yield loss, Gendzelevich pointed out that while loss of N does lead to a loss in crop yield, loss of Sulphur to your crop can lead to a very steep yield loss very quickly and there is no getting it back.

Take home point: a soil test to confirm exactly what your field may need is an excellent tool to ensure your crop has the best opportunity to regain any traction it has lost due to leaching.



## Seeding Depth

A field that may look at first glance similar to the field with the Fertilizer issue, this field actually had a planting depth problem. The planter was set at a specific plant depth which was a little shy of 2". This farmer wants to get his plants to "pop" out of the ground quick. What occurred was he hit a rather 'tough, clay' section of the field and he didn't adjust his speed. The seed went in shy of an inch in some places and the germination was adversely affected. He has incredibly even, strong looking corn plants all over his farm. This patch bothers his ego a little.

...❖ Seed Depth matters



Here is a nice row of TH4578RR

## Did you know?

Do you know what the small "extra" bits of corn growing from the base of the stalk are?

The proper term is "Tillers" but they are also called "Suckers". They usually mean that conditions were particularly good at this "stage" of corn growth. Tests have shown that they usually do not compete adversely with the main plant and usually die off as the main plant gets larger but can continue to grow if conditions remain very favorable.

More important is if a young corn crop is damaged by hail for example but survives broken, it is possible that tillers will grow from the 'old base' and develop into a complete plant.

## Dealers Desk

I have heard from MB and I am seeing in BC that Thunder grain corn: TH4574RR (and it's VTPro version) TH7574VTPro are looking very strong in the field and more advanced than competitors in the same fields.

Monsanto and other independent genetics companies have a new focus on Canada. A lot of money is being invested in trials and genetic programs specifically for the Canadian market and there is a lot of research taking place in MB for one. Know that Thunder will have access to those newly developed "Northern" genetics (as will our competitors). If you hear competitors speak of the research "their" companies have access too – know that Thunder has that same opportunity and you can also use the research as a sales tool when promoting Thunder.

That water picture is courtesy of Kevin Elmy, Friendly Acres Farm. This is his land and the fence posts you see are 5' high. I know this is nothing new for many of you and I hope some respite from the rising waters comes soon.

Thanks for visiting Corn Crib Notes.

Next installment: Harvest time: where it will be fleshed out with info on Grain, Silage & Grazing details



I look forward to an end of July Manitoba visit where I'd like to walk fields with those who still have corn to take a look at. I will be planning a trip to SK and AB in August. Please get in touch.