



Field Notes for The Week Of 8-8-2022

Good Growing Season For WEEDS!

August is off and going full speed ahead and a little damp to boot. Much of the county has seen some rainfall the first week of August with precipitation ranges from 1.5-2.2 inches of rain. For some, the rain was much welcomed, for others the rain could hold off a bit so they that next cutting of hay can be accomplished. The past week was somewhat slow and uneventful in the field, my western bean cutworm and squash vine borer traps have been very quiet (that's a good thing). I was able to get out and scout many soybeans fields and my main focus was on disease and insect pressure. Very little insect pressure is present at this time, but it is early yet. Japanese beetle feed continues but at very low thresholds, very little aphid present, and grasshopper population are beginning to grow. For diseases, the most common soybean disease that I see is brown leaf spot and some frog eye, this is a good time to make a fungicide treatment to those beans entering the r-3 and r-4 growth stages. Corn continues to mature at a rapid pace and remain very clean of disease and pest pressure, ear fill is beginning and much of the corn is in the blister stage. During ear development corn is at its peak of nitrogen use this is why much of the corn fields in the county are beginning to carnalize or many farmers call it fire or burning at the bottom. The corn plant is simply taking nutrients (mostly nitrogen) from older tissue or leaves and depositing it in the ear, this can be intensified during wet growing seasons or other stresses. Wrapper tobacco harvest continues on, and burley harvest is beginning for many producers, much of the tobacco has very good size but as many producers know on wet years tobacco will break your back housing and break the wallet at warehouse! Tobacco full of water is not the only thing that can break a producer's wallet, weeds can do a good job at robbing profits as well. In my travels I can't help but notice many soybean and corn fields becoming very wooly with weeds. Not just weeds but very invasive and some noxious weeds at that. Water hemp, giant ragweed, johnsongrass, velvet leaf, foxtail and cocklebur are just a few of the culprits.

Weeds are becoming more of a challenge each season and I believe that weed management should be on the top of not only row crop producers' management list but livestock, forage, and general landowners' management list too. Many of the weeds I listed above have made Ohio's noxious weed list, meaning that they pose a threat to humans, livestock, and the environment. Controlling and preventing the spread should be top priority. Allowing many of these weeds to propagate and reproduce in your crop fields can equate to major yield reductions, disease pathogens, and insect pest harbors. According to Iowa State University yield reduction of corn from late emerging Water hemp can range from 5-20% in a protentional 150-bushel corn crop this would equal about 7.5-30 bushels. Research has shown that when Water hemp population reach as much as 20 plants per sq ft yields can be reduced up to 44% of more. If you see Water hemp or other hard to control weeds poking above the bean canopy, take action because it can cost BIG!

