



Does Seed Treatment Make Sense for You?

From the desk of Clark Rathman

Soybeans acres will increase in 2017 as the price ratio continues to lean towards pods as opposed to ears. A predicted 6% increase in soybean acres means that millions more soybean seeds will be sown. If you are one of those producers planting soybeans, take a moment and learn more about seed treatment before you make any treatment decisions.

Seed dealers are quick to add a treatment to your purchase and profit to their bottom line. Before you buy seed treatment, step back and figure out which products actually give a positive return on investment. Ask yourself, “Do my fields typically have problems that seed treatment will prevent?” For example: your dealer wants you to use a new product that prevents S.D.S. (sudden death syndrome), but you can’t think of a field that you farm with a history of SDS. Without the disease, isn’t the product a complete waste of money? On the contrary, if your field has SDS and you don’t use a product such as Illevo, you could easily lose 6-10 bushels per acre. That’s a mistake most farmers can’t afford.

Another time seed treatment would be beneficial is when you plant early into cold, wet soil, especially if those soils have a history of plant disease. Seed treatment protects the seed in those conditions and many seed treatments include a replant guarantee. However, if you plant in warm, ideal conditions and your beans emerge 3 to 5 days after planting, there may be no need for treatment at all. With that in mind, do you know what day you are going to plant your soybeans? You don’t, so wait until planting to have seed treated. (Your seed dealer will not like this.)

Once you decide which seed needs treatment, take the next step and figure out which treatment you should use. Good soybean seed treatments have four components; three fungicides and one insecticide. Short that and you are probably overpaying for underperformance. Watch the rates! Some brands use a light or half rate that “cheapen” the blend and leave you with an ineffective seed treatment. Research the chemistry as well. Some fungicides are contact only products and won’t aid the seed after it germinates.

In this Issue

- Does Seed Treatment Make Sense for You?
- Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

Contact Us

Wickmanchemical.com



Iowa

wickchem@metc.net

53597 650th Street
PO Box 385
Atlantic, IA 50022
712-243-7739

Kansas

wickchem@metc.net

312 W Main Street
PO Box 909
Oxford, KS 67119
408-560-2802

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday
Seasonally or
by Appointment
8 a.m. - Noon



Ineffective or light rate products can actually lower your yield by reducing germination rates. See the attached charts and do your homework before you decide which treatment to use

In addition to a conventional seed treatment, you can add a nematicide or biological. Nematicide examples include Illevo (for sudden death syndrome)

and Clariva (for soybean cyst nematode). Biologicals include inoculants such as Quickroots or Cell-Tech and growth products such as Toggle. If you utilize biologicals, be aware of proper application timing. Biologicals are living organisms and can only survive on a seed for hours, not days or months (regardless of what your seed guy tells you). Apply biologicals to your seed as close to planting as possible and never more than 12 hours ahead of planting to get effective results. Read and follow the labeled instructions. Some biologicals have a “no more than” four-hour pre-plant restriction on their products. (Again, your seed dealer may not like this.)

| | Component A | Component B | Component C | Component D | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Seed Treatment | Fungicide 1 | Fungicide 2 | Fungicide 3 | Insecticide | recomendation |
| | For fusarian, Ryzoctonia | For Pythium, Phytophthora | For Ryzoctonia | For early insects | |
| Cruiser Maxx Vibrance | 0.0156 Fludioxinol | 0.047 Mefonoxam | 0.0156 Sedaxane | 0.312 Thiamethoxam | subpar |
| Syngenta | G, not systemic | E, half rate | E | low rate | |
| PPST (evergol energy) | 0.0359 prothioconazole | 0.11 Metalaxyl | 0.0179 Penflufen | 0.39 Imidacloprid | above par |
| Pioneer | G | E | G | decent rate | |
| Intego Suite | 0.01665 ipconazole | 0.0132 Metalaxy, 0.0496 Ethoboxam | none | 0.337 Clothianidin | subpar |
| Valent | VG | E, not full rate, ethoboxam covers | missing | light rate | |
| Acceleron Standard | 0.034 Fluxapyroxad | 0.0532 Metalaxyl | 0.0552 Pyroclastrobin | 0.4868 Imidacloprid | subpar |
| Monsanto | G-E | E, half rate | F | good rate | |
| Rancona V100 Complete Blend | 0.01665 ipconazole | 0.11 Metalaxyl | 0.2664 Carboxin | 0.402 Imidacloprid | above par |
| Arysta | VG | E | G | good rate | |
| Spirato IMTM | 0.0161 fludioxinol | 0.112 Metalaxyl | 0.0647 thiophanate methyl | 0.403 Imidicloprid | subpar |
| Nufarm | G, not systemic | E | not typical seed treatment | good rate | |
| Stine XP | 0.1289 Thiabendazole | 0.1049 Metalaxyl | 0.0762 Azoxystrobin | 0.371 Imidacloprid | subpar |
| | U | E | F | little light rate | |
| Efficacy Ratings: F= Fair, G=Good, VG=Very Good, E=Excellent, U=Unknown | | | | | |
| Units are ounces AI/unit | | | | | |

Still not sure what to do? Follow these simple steps:

1) Identify the reasons you need seed treatment.

- Early planting
- Cold, wet soils
- Sudden Death Syndrome
- Soybean Cyst Nematode
- Field has been out of soybean rotation for several years- needs inoculant
- Fields with history of plant disease

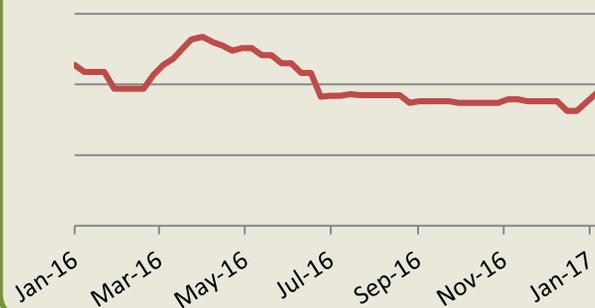
2) If you have circled one or more of the above, ask yourself:

- Do environmental conditions warrant treatment?
- Does my dealer offer the products I need?
- Do the potential benefits of this treatment outweigh the costs?
- If I treat this seed, will I plant it tomorrow? (unplanted seed can be a headache to get rid of)

Before you buy seed treatment, weigh the known cost against the potential benefit and make an informed decision. If you have any questions, call your Wickman Chemical sales representative today!

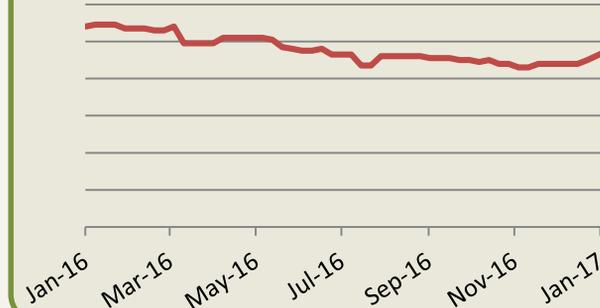
Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations 01/01/2016 – 01/06/2017

Anh. Ammonia



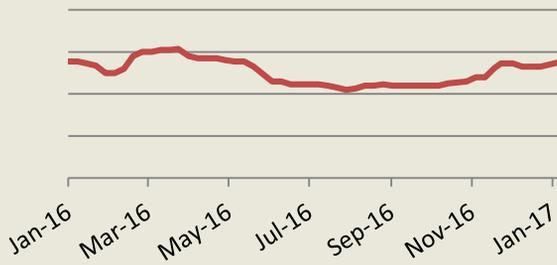
Anhydrous ammonia is the fertilizer wild card. New production in Port Neal and Wever have made forecasting the price of NH₃ more of a guess than an opinion. We have seen prices at the wholesale level vary by as much as \$80 in the last 45 days. It is my opinion that retail prices will stay in the current price range in the Midwest through the 2017 spring application season. Any major downward move will occur when excess inventory, created by new production, begins to weigh on the markets this summer. Cover your anticipated spring needs before application begins; wait for a 25% price break before buying for the fall of 2017.

AMS



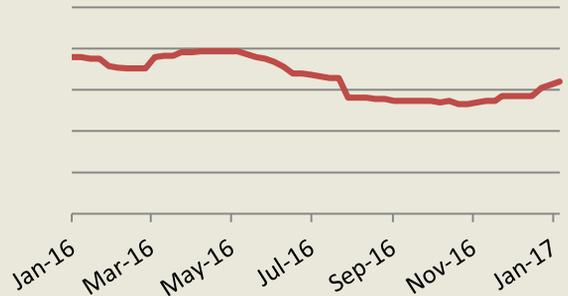
Granular AMS prices have finally started moving higher. Cover your spring 2017 needs now.

Urea



Expect Urea prices to continue their annual migration from fall lows to spring highs as demand picks up (no surprise here). Purchase your spring 2017 needs now, especially if you have storage.

UAN



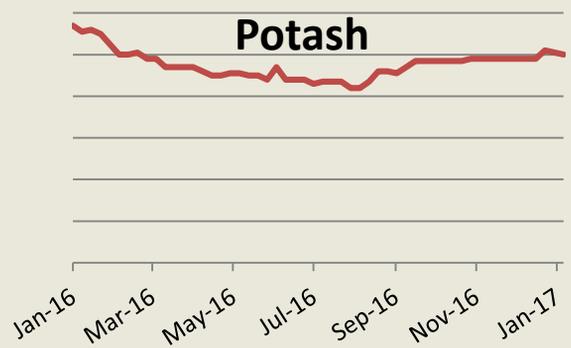
UAN prices have begun their seasonal uptrend off fall lows. Expect prices to continue their annual grind higher as freight and available storage issues come into focus (just like every other year I can remember). Cover your spring 2017 needs now.

MAP



MAP and DAP reached their lows in late November through early December and have firmed \$30 to \$40 in the last five weeks. I would not expect prices to retreat until river traffic resumes and the bulk of late winter and early spring spreading has been completed. Cover your spring 2017 needs now.

Potash



Potash prices have been steady to slightly higher for the last 60 days. Expect higher prices as Canadian producers, as well as Intrepid, are trying to move the market up \$20. Purchase your spring 2017 needs now.