

January 19, 2011

FUNGICIDES

To spray or not to spray? That is a common question that always comes up when it's time to apply fungicides on our corn and soybean crops. It has been proven over the last few years that it is a great investment, not an expense for you to spray both your corn and soybeans with a fungicide. Now, what is the difference in fungicides that are on the market? There are curative products which are triazoles, and preventative products which are strobilurins. What is the difference and what should I use?



Strobilurins prevent the fungi from entering the plant. They reduce the risk that fungal diseases such as Gray Leaf Spot, Northern Leaf Blight, Leaf Spot, and Root and Stalk Rot in corn. In soybeans it prevents Asian Rust, Leaf Spot, Anthracnose, Pod and Stem Blight and other diseases. Using a strobilurin fungicide is like having extra insurance on your crop and that it will yield more.

Triazoles inhibit the development of disease after infection. Triazoles will help cure all the above mentioned diseases, except for Asian Rust in soybeans. If it is a threat you would need a strobilurin fungicide to prevent. Triazoles should be applied once you've scouted for the disease and know it is present in your crop.

Using strobilurins and triazoles in combination as a one-time application has proven to be the most beneficial. It allows you to get the application started a little earlier in the season and gives you both the preventative and curative results you need. It is not a matter of "if" disease pressure will be in the crop, it is a matter of "when". Last year there was a 7-20 bushel response in corn and a 3-6 bushel response in soybeans when using a strobilurin and triazole combination fungicide. Every year is different with the



crop response but the disease pressure is always present in some form. Examples of a strobilurin is Quadris; triazoles are Tilt and Proline. Combination products would be Quilt and Stratego YLD. Contact your local Central Valley Agronomist for the best fungicide product that would work for you.