

TECHtalk®

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THE WORLD**

TECHtalk is published monthly for dealers of Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, focusing on technology, agronomy, trends and news from around the seed industry.

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RR2 Xtend® System for 2020

by **MARK GRUNDMEIER** SOYBEAN PRODUCT MANAGER

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Bayer CropScience has announced a special herbicide program for 2020 to be used on RR2 Xtend soybeans. Called the "Spray Early with Confidence Program," it is designed to help farmers planting Xtend soybeans to gain an upper hand on weed management.

There are two strategies farmers can use to qualify. A brief summary of the program is as follows:

Strategy #1 (Preferred Option):

- **Start Clean**– Use tillage or the appropriate burndown herbicides.
- **Pre-emergence Application**– Use a qualifying residual herbicide within two weeks before

planting or prior to soybean emergence to control broadleaf weeds.

- **Post-emergence Application**– Make a post-application when weeds are less than 4 inches tall and within 30 days after planting soybeans. Application should include: Warrant® Herbicide (3-4 pts) or Warrant Ultra Herbicide (50 fl oz) + Roundup PowerMAX® herbicide or Roundup WeatherMAX® herbicide (32 fl oz) + XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology (22 fl oz) + an approved drift reduction agent at labeled rate.

Strategy #2 (Alternative Option):

- **Start Clean**– Use tillage or the appropriate burndown herbicides.
- **Pre-emergence Application**– Make an application that includes: XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology (22-44 fl oz) + Warrant Herbicide (3-4 pts) + Metribuzin at planting or as soon as possible after planting but prior to soybean emergence. Include Roundup PowerMAX herbicide or Roundup WeatherMAX herbicide in minimum-till and no-till situations.
- **Post-emergence Application**– Make a post-application when weeds are less than 4 inches tall and within 21 days after soybean emergence. Application should include Roundup PowerMAX herbicide or Roundup WeatherMAX herbicide (32 fl oz) + Warrant Ultra Herbicide2 (50 fl oz).

Before using either of these strategies, farmers will want to consult with their local ag chemical suppliers. If a farmer experiences less than commercially acceptable weed control, Bayer will provide up to \$15 per acre for a second post-emerge application.

We still have a good supply of Xtend soybeans available for 2020 planting! These Latham Ironclad™ Xtend soybeans have the outstanding defensive packages along with top-end yield: L 3197 R2X, L 2887 R2X, L 2682 R2X, L 2384 R2X, L 2184 R2X, L 1948 R2X, L 1769 R2X, L 1482 R2X and L 0739 R2X.

Other top-performing Xtend products from Latham include: L 0124 R2X, L 0282 R2X, L 0553 R2X, L 0883 R2X, L 2159 R2X, L 2295 R2X, L 2549 R2X and L 3394 R2X.

Tech sheets for each product are available on LathamSeeds.com. Remember, it's always best to plant a package. Contact your local Latham rep to select the best Xtend soybean for your fields.

Selecting seed field-by-field yields!



Focus on Achieving Even Emergence for Maximum Yield

by **DARIN CHAPMAN** PRECISION AGRONOMY ADVISOR

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The cost of achieving uniform emergence is a complicated one as achieving uniform emergence is dependent upon receiving adequate moisture, heat units and proper seed-to-soil contact.

If you've struggled with achieving uniform emergence, there are three key areas on which to focus. Start at the front of the planter and work your way back:

- 1** Look at the row cleaners. Assure the planter is clearing trash as it moves through the field.
- 2** Next, check the downforce to make sure that seeds are being placed at a consistent seed depth across your field. Take the time to dig in the trench behind the planter, which is important but often overlooked.
- 3** Maintaining consistent seed-to-soil contact and proper closing of the seed trench is vital.

There are many options to control these aspects at varying levels of cost. Look at your own operation and balance the improvements you desire with the potential return on investment. Below are options to consider for even emergence:

- **Tillage Practices**– Prepare an optimal seed bed.
- **Residue Management**– Move residue, not topsoil.
- **Planter Row Unit Maintenance**– Use an annual planter checklist. (See sidebar.)
- **Planter Downforce**– Look at planter upgrades for the best down and lift force option for your operation. In certain cases, lift force versus downforce is more beneficial.
- **Seed Settlement**– Make sure seed is reaching the bottom of trench for seed-to-soil contact.
- **Closing the Trench**– Confirm the closing system is doing its job to close the trench; make certain there are no air pockets.

Non-uniform stands result in lower yields because the smaller plants that emerge later cannot capture enough sunlight. Without even emergence, your work to achieve even seed spacing and singulation is in vain. The extra time spent now on planter maintenance will be worth it come spring planting.

Contact your Latham Precision Agronomy Advisor to take a deeper look at your operation now. We're here to help you achieve better emergence.

8-STEP PLANTER CHECKLIST

- 1 Test Bushings**– Move the row unit up and down and side to side. If there is excess play in the parallel arms, it could be a worn bushing.
- 2 Check the Meter Drive System**– A kinked chain anywhere in the system can cause erratic seed spacing. Check cable drives for frayed cables. Also spin the cable to make sure it spins freely.
- 3 Level the Planter**– Hook up the planter and put a level on the main bar to ensure it's perpendicular, running slightly uphill. A level planter provides the proper seed tube angle and allows closing wheels to perform properly.
- 4 Calibrate Meters**– It's a good practice to have meters inspected and calibrated annually on a meter stand.
- 5 Create a Proper Seed Trench**– Double disk openers require a solid point of contact to create a perfect seed trench. Check to see if discs need replacing or shimming is necessary.
- 6 Inspect Seed Tubes**– Worn out or cracked seed tubes cause erratic seed placement in the furrow. When replacing seed tubes, look for carbide tips to help prevent wear.
- 7 Look at Gauge Wheels**– With the planter in transport position, raise the gauge wheel up to see tolerance between the edge of the wheel and the opening disc. If your fingers fit in the gap, either adjust or replace the gauge wheel arm.
- 8 Align Closing Wheel**– Ensure closing wheels are centered over the seed trench by lowering the planter onto concrete. Then pull forward about 12 inches. Disc openers should leave a mark on the concrete, allowing you to gauge closing wheel alignment.



Tips for Planning for the Best Corn Crop Possible in 2020

by **LYLE MARCUS** CORN PRODUCT MANAGER

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Many parts of the Latham marketing area continue to deal with the effects of the long 2019 growing season. Farmers have acres they harvested and prepared well for winter; acres they harvested with questionable tillage completed; and acres that still have crop in the field. The abundance of fall moisture combined with an early freeze and heavy snow cover have farmers in many areas wondering what this spring will bring.

The Latham Team has fielded questions from farmers wondering if they should order hybrids that are earlier than they usually plant. The short answer is to plan for usual planting dates. Order hybrids in the relative maturity that you prefer to plant, and then adjust in late spring if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

Much research has been completed on effects of delayed planting to hybrid yield, maturity and profitability. Materials developed by North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota state that farmers should wait to change from their normal maturity only when planting delays extend past May 25. An Iowa State University field agronomist in May 2019 said Iowa farmers, in general, should be able to plant full-season well-adapted corn hybrids until June 1. While that's later than what we recommend, especially for Iowa's northern counties, the point is that research show yields are better from full-season hybrids even if they get in the ground later than the optimal planting window.

Corn planted after May 1 requires about 6.8 fewer growing degree days per day to reach maturity, according to an ISU Extension publication. Purdue University has an online calculator that can help determine growing degree day requirements for

late planted corn.

A 2007 ISU newsletter shared results from a Purdue University research project on delayed planting effects on flowering and maturity of dent corn. I found this information interesting as I have seen many times that planting delays did not necessarily translate into significant maturity delays. The Purdue project showed that hybrids planted late shortened time to flowering, had a little longer fill period, but overall they reached maturity nine days quicker on average than early plantings of those same hybrids. The research also showed the reduction in time spent in vegetative growth outweighs the increased time spent in reproductive growth.

Purdue's research on hybrid response to late versus early planting showed time in vegetative growth was reduced by 14 days, from 75 to 61 days, for a 14-day reduction for late planted hybrids. Whereas, time in reproductive growth was increased by 5 days, from 68 to 63 days, for 5-day increase for late planted hybrids. The hybrids adjusted to the shorter growing season by reducing 9 days total ($-14 + 5 = -9$ days). In summary, hybrids compensate for late planting mostly by shortening the time necessary to reach silking. The old story that hybrids can adapt to the environment holds true. **See references to this information below.**

At Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, we will continue to help our dealers and customers make the best decisions to create the highest yield potential with greatest return possible for every acre. Today that means a cropping plan of traditional maturities for your farm, but we will be prepared to help adjust those plans should spring of 2020 require a change in plans.

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Mycotoxin and Mold Potential Higher from 2019

by **COREY CATT** FORAGE PRODUCTS MANAGER
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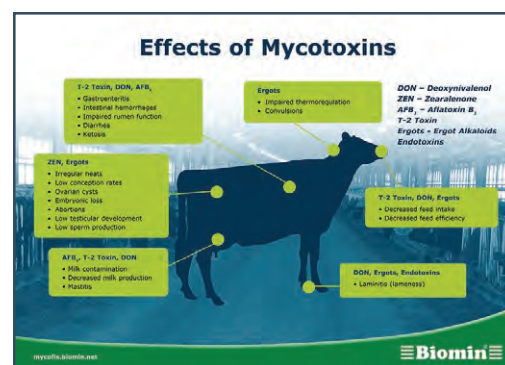
While many are relieved the 2019 growing season is over, livestock producers are feeling some affects on their feed report from delayed planting and challenging corn silage harvest. The most concerning result from the wet 2019 season was ear and stalk molds, as well as rots.

I know of a beef producer who had a delayed planting and harvest with challenging field conditions. There was also presence of some mold at the tip of some ears. They used a good inoculant, and ensiled tightly in a silobag. Before feeding, they had feed tested for mycotoxins. The test revealed elevated levels of vomintoxin.

It's hard to know how to react without a point of reference. A large bunker or bag is a combination of material grown on various soil types. Testing gives us a great starting point and retesting develops a trend. Trends keep us pointed in the right direction to manage the variability.



Managing mycotoxins can be complex depending on the toxin. This graphic produced by Biomin company is a great quick reference



for how many different toxins can affect dairy and beef cows.

Reaching out to a specialist is a great first step. He/she can develop a plan for best feeding methods based

on species and stage of production while minimizing potential side-effects of any toxins present. The challenge is that each nutritionist may have a differing suggestion based on experience. No matter what, it's important to test and develop a plan. Then closely monitor animal performance to reduce risk.