

# TECHtalk

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**HELPING FARMERS  
FEED AND FUEL  
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.

**FEBRUARY 2021**

## Using XtendFlex® Soybeans in Your Weed Management Program



by **MARK GRUNDMEIER** SOYBEAN PRODUCT MANAGER

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This application was later than ideal, resulting in weed escapes and even off-target movement of the dicamba herbicide to neighboring soybean fields that weren't tolerant to that herbicide.

Using the XtendFlex system will allow farmers to apply dicamba herbicide earlier. They can spray either pre-emergence or early post-emergence when weeds are at labeled heights and are most sensitive to the herbicide. This should also greatly reduce the likelihood of off-target movement of dicamba to nearby sensitive crops.

Another benefit of the XtendFlex system is that farmers can apply Liberty herbicides up to the R2 stage of growth if there are any

XtendFlex soybeans, which were approved for global sale in September 2020, will be an important tool to manage resistant weeds. The combination of tolerance to dicamba (XtendiMax®, Engenia® and Tavium®), glyphosate (Roundup®) and glufosinate (Liberty®) herbicides offers a unique triple option of choices to control a wide range of grasses and broadleaf weeds in soybean fields.

Farmers who have used Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans are generally happy with their yields but desire better weed control options. Most farmers with whom I've visited believe they must wait as long as possible to apply the post-emergence dicamba products with the Xtend system.

weed escapes. It is still highly recommended that weed management programs start with a pre-plant or early pre-emergence residual herbicide like Warrant®, Authority® or Sonic®. Regardless of which herbicide you use, please read and follow all label recommendations.

At press time, Latham Hi-Tech Seeds will have seven XtendFlex soybeans available for spring 2021 planting:

- 1 L 0728 XF** – This 0.7 maturity soybean carries the combination 3a and 1c genes for Phytophthora and Brown Stem Rot resistance with good tolerance to Iron Chlorosis.
- 2 L 1285 XF** – This medium-tall, medium-bush type plant has the C-gene for Phytophthora. It also has above-average tolerance to White Mold, Brown Stem Rot and Iron Chlorosis. Maturity is 1.2.
- 3 L 2283 XF** – Very strong emergence, excellent tolerance to Brown Stem Rot and the C-gene for Phytophthora are a few highlights of this 2.2 maturity soybean.
- 4 L 2385 XF** – This 2.3 maturity line features the C-gene for Phytophthora with very good tolerance to Brown Stem Rot. It has above-average scores for White Mold and Iron Chlorosis.
- 5 L 2494 XF** – At a 2.4 maturity, this medium-bushy plant carries the C-gene for Phytophthora with outstanding emergence and early growth.
- 6 L 3058 XF** – Excellent tolerance to Brown Stem Rot and the 3a gene for Phytophthora are highlights of this 3.0 maturity line. Its emergence and standability are outstanding.
- 7 L 3595 XF** – This soybean features the 3a + K-gene for Phytophthora, very good tolerance to Frogeye Leaf Spot and excellent overall stress tolerance. It's a fairly tall, medium-bush plant at a 3.5 maturity.

All of these XtendFlex releases carry strong Soybean Cyst Nematode tolerance. Contact your Latham Dealer or RSM for current availabilities.

# Mitigate Weather Risks with Best Management Practices



by **LYLE MARCUS** CORN PRODUCT MANAGER

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Weather concerns are top of mind as farmers across Latham Country look ahead to spring 2021 planting. Customers frequently ask us how to mitigate the risk of 2021 drought forecasts.

While we want to take the potential for drought into consideration, we should not let that forecast dictate every decision we make on the hybrids we place in a given field. Review the hybrid characteristics and look for best drought tolerance. For fields with a long history of drought, select a Latham® DroughtGuard® VT Double PRO® product for additional protection on those acres.

Consider these factors to successfully mitigate potential drought on a broad-acre basis:

## 1 Start with and maintain a weed-free environment.

Weeds use a substantially higher amount of water than corn to produce a pound of dry matter.

- Corn uses 42 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of dry matter.
- Lambsquarter uses 79 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of dry matter.
- Ragweed uses 109 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of dry matter.

## 2 Conserve moisture during field preparation.

- A uniform seed bed creates the best opportunity to plant your crop with precision.
- Minimize passes in the spring while working hard to create that uniform seed bed.

**3 Plant your corn crop with precision.** We want all plants to emerge within 72 hours of first emergence. This creates the best root system to maximize water use through the entire growing season.

- Plant a consistent seed depth.
- Check for consistent seed spacing.
- Ensure great seed-to-soil contact.

**4 Promote a healthy root system with fertility.** Good fertility programs maintain a healthy, strong root system to effectively use available water.

- Starter fertilizer gets corn plants off to the best start possible.
- Side-dress Nitrogen in a timely manner to nurse optimum plant health.
- Maintain a good fertility balance, using soil testing as a guide.

We suggest staying with a hybrid selection plan that does not vary significantly from previous years. A couple management changes at planting time to get your crop off to the best start will result in more success than a total change of hybrid selection. Get your plants off to the best start possible, so they can take advantage of any moisture throughout the season. Remember, the bulk of your yield is created during July and August when plants use moisture to produce grain.

**Latham's Corn Team is here to help you maximize yield in 2021! We're just a phone call or an email away.**

# Fighting Aphanomyces in Alfalfa



by **COREY CATT** FORAGE PRODUCTS MANAGER  
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The world of soils is made up of a complex living biology. Uncovering production-limiting factors can be one of the many links to selecting the best products and seed treatments for that acre. More specifically, it is helpful to know the most prominent diseases that could hamper emergence and yield. There are steps you can take to reduce that risk.

**Aphanomyces Root Rot** is a big word to describe a microscopic pathogen with the power to cause big problems. The fungus responsible, *Aphanomyces euteiches*, is an oomycete that is present in many Midwest soils. It's especially prevalent in heavy, wet, poorly drained soils. The pathogen spreads by zoospores, which move easily in wet soils. Many years ago, scientists discovered two dominant races of this particular pathogen: Race 1 and Race 2. The latter proves more virulent or infectious. There is speculation of a "Race 3" although testing is still taking place.

Aphanomyces often presents as stunted, yellow plants with poor root development and very few lateral roots. If the seedling becomes infected, symptoms escalate to include yellow

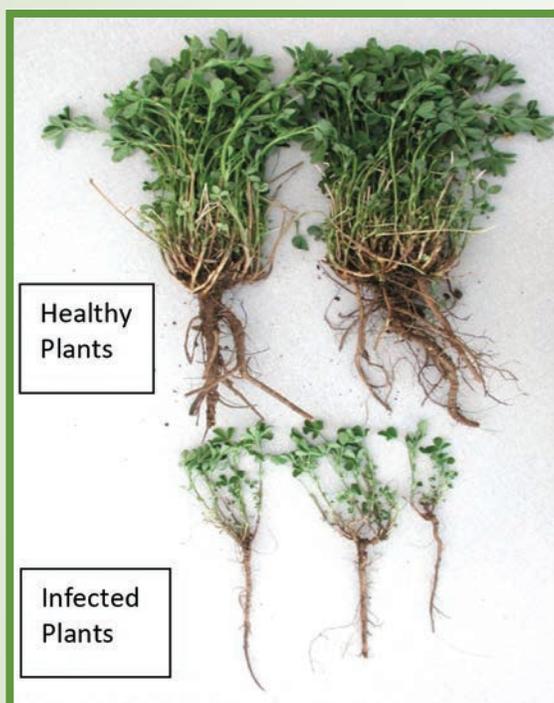
cotyledons and first leaves with chlorosis. The roots and stems will first appear grey (often water soaked) and then change to brown. Yield reduction results from poor root growth and significantly less nodules. Rebound is also extremely slow after harvest. If you are concerned you have Aphanomyces and want to know which races you have, you can submit a soil sample to the UW Plant Disease and Diagnostic Clinic.

Plant breeders rose to the challenge and have done a great job selecting varieties of alfalfa with high resistance to Race 1. When Race 2 was discovered, they also began selecting for that. On page 69 of the 2021 Latham® product guide, you will find our disease resistance chart with Aphanomyces Race 1 and 2 index ratings.

In addition to genetic resistance, we also equip our alfalfa varieties with an additional layer of protection with AlfaShield seed treatment. The success of a multi-year alfalfa stand rests on good emergence and seedling survival. Latham Hi-Tech Seeds includes Stamina® in its seed treatment to provide that needed broad-spectrum protection against soil-borne pathogens.

Seed treatments that don't include Stamina can suffer mortality rates of up to 75% in the seedling year. Discount seed companies tend to use older plant genetics and cheaper seed treatments, which can offer significantly less protection. In addition to high mortality rates, the risk includes reduced stands and less yield.

Latham Seeds can reduce that risk, increase your yield potential and promote greater stand longevity thanks to good genetic resistance and seed treatments. Talk with your Latham rep to learn more. Now is a great time to buy alfalfa for spring seeding!



Stand failure from Aphanomyces

Pictures from the UW Extension Forage.



## Think Differently about VR Seeding Soybeans

by **DARIN CHAPMAN** PRECISION AGRONOMY ADVISOR

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Variable rate (VR) seeding in corn has been a frequent topic of conversation for years, but now that conversation is shifting to VR seeding soybeans. Before planting VR seeding soybeans, we must change the way we think.

When your yield potential goes up in a corn field, we increase population. When corn yield potential goes down, we decrease population. Makes sense, right? It's the opposite for soybeans. When yield potential increases, lower your planting rate in a soybean field. When your yield potential decreases, increase the planting rate. Our trials to date have shown the most return on investment in lower-yielding environments where population was decreased.

Why invest more in a geography where yield potential is less for soybeans? There's good reason! Percent germination in soybeans is one big reason.

When you plant tougher areas in the field, you're not going to achieve 100% of your germination rate. Now think of your high yielding areas in your field... There is a much greater chance you will achieve close to 100% germination there. High-yielding areas typically have better soils and drainage, so it makes sense to plant more seed in

low-yielding areas to increase the germination rate.

We enjoy sitting down with farmers and talking about whether VR planting is right for them. Our Data Forward™ team is here to help you get comfortable with implementation. Phil Long and I love to do On-Farm Trials in your own fields, so this could be a good starting place for farmers wanting to experiment with lower seeding rates. We can experiment on a smaller scale while placing learning blocks throughout the field. Using learning blocks and on-farm research allows us to compare different zones of a farmer's field and to also compare to previous years.

Imagine the savings if we can drop soybean planting populations by even 20,000! The savings from reducing planting rates from 160,000 to 140,000 can then be invested into seed treatment or something else that protects yield and helps you achieve optimal germination. This allows farmers to continue to achieve higher yields while lowering planting populations.

**Give your Precision Agronomy Advisors a call today! Let's start a conversation about conducting on-farm research.**