



No. 25 / December 8, 2011

Executive editor

Aaron Hager, Extension Weed
Science Specialist

www.ipm.illinois.edu/bulletin

Copyright © 2011, Board of Trustees,
University of Illinois



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Also in This Issue

- On Target Report: Assessing
Performance of Bt Hybrids and
Insecticides 150
- Fertility Calculators Available for
Android Devices 150

the Bulletin

Pest Management and Crop Development
Information for Illinois

Final Issue of *the Bulletin* for 2011

A phrase often used in sports—“Another season is in the books”—seems an appropriate way to begin this final 2011 issue of *the Bulletin*. The growing season held its share of interesting developments, including a few surprises, and through them all authors for *the Bulletin* continued their commitment to bring our readers the most current information and recommendations to optimize crop production and pest management. We can only speculate about what might unfold during the 2012 growing season, but you can be confident that *the Bulletin* will keep you informed about developments and discoveries that could impact crop production and protection. We are considering a few changes in the format and delivery of *the Bulletin* in 2012, but our commitment to our readers will remain unchanged.

You might have noticed a few contributing authors whose names were new to the *Bulletin* this year, including University of Illinois commercial agriculture extension educators Dennis Bowman, Robert Bellm, Russ Higgins, and Angie Peltier. We very much look forward to the contributions these individuals will make to *the Bulletin* in coming years. You also may have noticed a couple of names “missing in action” this year. Dr. Vince Davis joined the University of Wisconsin as an extension weed scientist, while Dr. Terry Niblack became chair of the Department of Plant Pathology at Ohio State University. I thank Vince and Terry for their many years of dedicated service to Illinois agriculture, their collegiality, and their friendship.

On behalf of all the authors who contribute to *the Bulletin* this year, I thank you for your continued suggestions, feedback, and interest in the newsletter. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season with family and friends, and I wish each of you a safe and prosperous 2012.—Aaron Hager

Reminder: Corn & Soybean Classics Are Next Month

We take this opportunity to remind everyone of the upcoming 2012 University of Illinois Corn & Soybean Classics. They will be held during January at seven Illinois locations:

- ▶ January 10 (Tuesday): Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn
- ▶ January 11 (Wednesday): Springfield Crowne Plaza
- ▶ January 12 (Thursday): Champaign I Hotel and Conference Center
- ▶ January 16 (Monday): Bloomington DoubleTree Hotel

- ▶ January 17 (Tuesday): Malta Kishwaukee College
- ▶ January 18 (Wednesday): Moline i wireless Center
- ▶ January 19 (Thursday): Quincy Holiday Inn

Register now by visiting our conference registration website (www.cropconferences.org). Through December 16, registration costs \$60; after that date, and on-site, the cost is \$75. If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at your convenience (800-321-1296).—*Aaron Hager*

Insects

On Target Report: Assessing Performance of Bt Hybrids and Insecticides

As 2011 slips into the history books, it's probably a good time to remind readers of *the Bulletin* that you have access to the *On Target Report*, published annually to describe the results of research trials concerning insect pests that commonly affect the production of Illinois field crops. The main contributors are Ron Estes (senior research specialist in agriculture), Nick Tinsley (visiting research specialist in agriculture), and me, all members of the Department of Crop Sciences.

The Insect Management and Insecticide Evaluation Program was created in 1984 by Kevin Steffey, long-time and well-known former extension entomologist at the University of Illinois. As the *On Target* website (ipm.illinois.edu/ontarget/) notes, “[The program] has provided the producers of Illinois

complete and informative evaluations of registered insecticides and new chemical and transgenic tools for the management of insect pests in Illinois.” At present the website details the results of our experiments from 2004 to 2010. Later this month, the results from our 2011 field season will be added.

I encourage you to visit the *On Target* site when making choices about insect management tools. In addition to root injury ratings and yields in our corn rootworm experiments, we provide information about various products for soybean aphid control. I hope you find the information useful, and I wish our readers a happy holiday season. I look forward to sharing more articles in 2012 as we begin the next growing season.—*Mike Gray*

Crop Development

Fertility Calculators Available for Android Devices

Two Android “apps” (computer programs for mobile devices) are now available to help answer common fertility questions.

The first app brings an Illinois-specific version of the multistate Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator website to your Android smartphone or tablet. A few years ago the University of Illinois started recommending that farmers use the maximum return to nitrogen (MRTN) model for calculating the economic optimum nitrogen rate. Several Corn Belt states collaborated on developing this system and created a common website (extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/Help.aspx). The same data and formulas have been used

to create the mobile calculator. You specify field location and rotation, as well as fertilizer and crop prices, and a customized optimum nitrogen rate is calculated. Just like the online version, the app provides a range of rates representing the top of the nitrogen return curve.

“How much P and K did my crop remove?” This question has probably sold a lot of copies of the *Illinois Agronomy Handbook*. In the current (24th) edition, the answer is on page 102 (Table 8.6, Maintenance fertilizer required for various crops). If you don't always have your handbook nearby but you have an Android device, this second app may be a good tool for you. It will do the calculations and even convert to pounds of DAP and 0-0-60. If you are on a 2-year replacement cycle, there is a special screen where you can enter crops and yields for both years and calculate a 2-year replacement amount.

Both apps are free from University of Illinois Extension and the Department of Crop Sciences. Emerson Nafziger and Fabián Fernández provided the background data and information that form the foundation for the calculators. If you would like to try one out, send me an e-mail (ndbowman@illinois.edu) with either “Send MRTN” or “Send PK” in the subject line.—*Dennis Bowman*

Contributing Authors

Dennis Bowman, ndbowman@illinois.edu, 217-244-0851

Mike Gray, mgray@illinois.edu, 217-333-6652

Aaron Hager, hager@illinois.edu, 217-333-4424

