

BETWEEN THE ROWS[®]

Fungicide Use on Wyffels Hybrids

Wyffels.com

June 24, 2026

A tool for higher yields

Fungicide applications are a tool corn growers can use to achieve maximum corn yields. Fungicide treatments have proven to protect yield potential when leaf diseases are present and improve plant health and standability at harvest.

Scouting for disease prior to tassel emergence is the best way to determine which fields would show the most positive response to a fungicide application. Considering other important factors such as field history, weather, and hybrid disease tolerance can also be used to improve your chances of a positive response.

Benefits of a fungicide application

- **Yield increase** – Results from Wyffels Agronomy trials have shown that a full tassel fungicide application provided a 10 Bu/A average yield gain.
- **Improved plant health** – Fungicides are designed to prevent the infection and/or spread of fungal pathogens. Keeping leaf tissue disease free allows for maximum efficiency during grain fill.
- **Better standability at harvest** – An often-overlooked benefit of fungicide applications is improved late season standability. It's not uncommon for a fungicide to extend the harvest window up to two weeks.



Full tassel fungicide application

Other factors to consider

- **Increased grain moisture** – One result of improved plant health is increased grain moisture. It's more apparent at the beginning of harvest. As grain moisture moves closer to 15%, the moisture difference between fungicide treated and untreated grain decreases.
- **Ear damage** – If fungicides are applied with an adjuvant prior to tassel emergence, ear damage can occur. To reduce risk of damage, do not use adjuvants at pre-tassel application timings.

Management recommendations

Given the positive yield responses and improved harvestability, applying fungicides at the full tassel to brown silk stage is a good recommendation for all hybrids. But some growers may be looking to focus on input costs and only plan to apply fungicide to a portion of their acres. There are different ways to decide which acres to focus your treatment on.



Gray leaf spot

One approach is to choose based solely on hybrid characteristics. The downside with this approach is that leaf disease symptoms are often difficult to find and distinguish at the full tassel application time frame. Without knowing what diseases are present, it's impossible to predict which hybrids will respond most positively. A more reliable approach would be to choose acres based on environments that favor leaf disease development rather than choosing hybrids.

Environments that favor disease development include:

- **Fields with disease symptoms** – It's important to scout fields for disease symptoms prior to applying a fungicide. Identifying diseases before they become fully established will provide the best chance to preserve yield. Hybrids vary in their tolerance to diseases. Disease will spread faster on hybrids with a low disease tolerance, so they need to be treated if a fungal leaf disease is present.
- **Continuous corn fields** – Many corn diseases overwinter on corn residue. Increased presence of residue increases the chance of disease infection.
- **No-till or minimal till fields** – Similar to the point above, more residue left on the soil surface increases the chance of disease infection.
- **Low lying fields** – Most fungal pathogens thrive in areas with high humidity and abundant moisture. Fields where morning fogs linger tend to be more susceptible to many of the corn leaf diseases.
- **Poorly drained fields** – Wet soils create a humid environment in a corn canopy, and are also favorable for many stalk rot pathogens. Although fungicides don't directly control stalk rots, they do protect leaf tissue from foliar fungal diseases. A plant with a healthy canopy is better able to fend off stalk rots.

- **Fields with recent history of corn disease** – Fields that were afflicted with a corn disease within the past few years are prone to repeat infection due to the accumulation of infected residue.
- **Fields with high yield potential** – Plants that are supporting big yields are more prone to late season stalk issues. The longer plants can retain healthy leaf tissue, the better late season plant health and stalk strength will be.

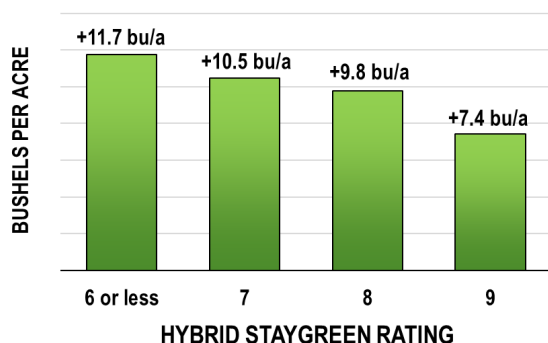
Hybrid Staygreen Rating

Results from Wyffels Agronomy trials have shown that hybrids with lower staygreen ratings typically respond more to fungicides than those with higher ratings. A staygreen rating is a visual estimate of the amount of green tissue remaining in a plant near the black layer stage. It is a good indicator of late season health and plant intactness.



Northern leaf blight

FUNGICIDE RESPONSE BY STAYGREEN RATING



Conclusion

Fungicides are a valuable tool in raising high yielding corn. The benefits include increased yield, improved plant health and better standability at harvest. All hybrids can respond positively to a properly timed fungicide application, especially in environments that favor the development of leaf disease. Scouting for leaf diseases is the best way to target applications to ensure a return on investment.

From the desk of



Dr. Brent Tharp
Technical Product Manager

309.737.6434 cell
btharp@wyffels.com

EXPECTED HYBRID RESPONSE TO FUNGICIDE WHEN DISEASE IS PRESENT

HYBRID FAMILY	GRAY LEAF SPOT	NORTHERN LEAF BLIGHT	TAR SPOT	SOUTHERN RUST
W1487	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W1599	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W1676	HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W1826	VERY HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W1869	VERY HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W1996	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	MODERATE
W2105	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH
W2386	HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE
W2446	HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	MODERATE
W2557	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W2629	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W2674	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W2867	HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	MODERATE
W3095	HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE
W3286	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W3299	HIGH	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W3309	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W3576	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W3654	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W4439	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
W4487	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W4514	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W4545	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W4889	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W5086	HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W5129	MODERATE	HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH
W5610	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W5684	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH
W5735	VERY HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W6110	MODERATE	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W6479	VERY HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W6505	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE
W6644	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W6886	MODERATE	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W7170	HIGH	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W7229	MODERATE	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W7424	HIGH	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W7485	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
W7499	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE
W7544	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
W7759	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE
W7819	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE
W7876	MODERATE	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W7945	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH	MODERATE
W8007	VERY HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
W8086	HIGH	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	HIGH
W8134	HIGH	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
W8700	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE
W9097	HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH
W9218	HIGH	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH