VII. Avail Phosphorus Fertilizer Additive

2007 Corn Starter Fertilizer Trial with Avail

Cooperators: David, John and Stanley Hula, Renwood Farm
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Agribusiness: Southern States Coop, King William Store
FFR: Phil Egolf and Phil Troutman*

Hybrid: SS574 RR/YG
Plant Population: 32,000
Previous Crop: Soybeans
Soil Type: Pamunkey fine sandy loam
Planting Date: May 2, 2007
Fertilizer:
- Broadcast: 70.0 lb N
- Starter: See below treatments
- Sidedress: 120.0 lb N + NutriSphere-N™
Herbicides:
- Preplant: 26 oz. Roundup Original®
- Pre-emergence: 1.8 qt Bicep II Magnum® + 1.0 pt Aatrex®
Harvest Date: September 29, 2007

**Treatments** | Rep 1 | Rep 2 | Rep 3 | Rep 4 | Rep 5 | Rep 6 | Rep 7 | Avg. bu/a
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Control | 188.9 | 199.0 | 188.9 | 232.9 | 221.7 | 207.7 | 220.8 | 208.6
Starter: 14-46-0 | 206.7 | 187.8 | 211.4 | 221.7 | 230.7 | 224.1 | 227.9 | 215.8
Starter: 14-46-0 + 0.5 gal Avail® | 212.1 | 193.1 | 231.6 | 222.3 | 210.4 | 215.2 | 227.3 | 216.0

Discussion: Avail® is a polymer that protects liquid phosphorus fertilizers from fixation in the soil, thus making the applied phosphorus more available for plant uptake. The starter and starter + Avail® treatments were significantly better than no starter by nearly 9 bushels per acre, but there was no yield boost by adding Avail® to the starter in this study. Please compare other Avail® fertilizer plots before making your 2008 fertilizer decision.

*Special thanks to the FFR staff who planted, fertilized and harvested the corn plots.

** 6-inch band over the row at planting.