



TIPS FOR CROP HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Many factors should be considered in managing crop health and mitigating the risks associated with crop production. The following strategies and practices will prepare you to have access to important information for the present crop and for years to come.

- **Source certified seed and planting stock**
- **Keep records detailing crop, variety, seeding rate, seeding date, inputs, and pest management practices for each field**
 - » Before planting a field, consider the field history – are there diseases or pests that showed up in the previous crop that should be taken into consideration before planting subsequent crops?
- **For rented land, obtain information about previous crops, pest problems, potential herbicide carryover, etc.**
- **When possible, plant resistant varieties to reduce the impact of major pests and diseases**
- **Practice crop rotation for crop and soil health and to break pest lifecycles**
- **Control weeds and volunteer plants both in and around the crop production area**
 - » Weeds and volunteer plants can act as alternate hosts for crop pests
- **Practice integrated pest management**
 - » Scout regularly for symptoms of diseases, pests, nutrient disorders, and other abiotic stressors
 - » Rotate between pesticide FRAC groups to avoid resistance build up in pest populations
 - » Plant cover crops to control weeds, break up pest cycles, improve soil organic matter and soil health, and reduce soil erosion
- **When possible, move from newer plantings to older plantings to avoid transmitting disease on your clothing or equipment**
- **Be aware of contagious problems on your farm (ex. nematodes, yellow nutsedge, Verticillium wilt, clubroot, etc.) and take steps to minimize the spread**
 - » Always move from “clean” fields to “contaminated” fields to avoid spreading these pests across your farm
 - » Wash and disinfect equipment after it comes out of a “contaminated” field
- **Manage waste materials**
 - » Dispose of culls and crop residue so that they do not become a hotbed of inoculum that can contaminate subsequent crops

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