



ADVANCED AG SYSTEMS'S

# Crop Soil News

<http://www.advancedagsys.com/>

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"It is the crops  
that feed the  
cows that make  
the milk  
which creates  
the money."

## Different Year Same Problem

### ORDER YOUR SEED NOW

If you think your corn silage and grain yields were down, seed producer yields are down even more. The inbreds used to produce the hybrids seed for your fields are very susceptible to adverse conditions. For some companies, the short season corn is non-existent. For others, they had switched their planting locations after last year's dry weather fiasco and so have adequate supply of seed. The point is **THOSE THAT SNOOZE – LOSE!** If you are going to take advantage of early planting of early variety corn, get your order in today.

## Seed Supplies

## Rotations

## Fall Killed Sods

## Very Early Corn Silage

**Move NOW to fall kill your sods.** Spraying sods in the fall catches most tough perennials when they are trans-locating into their root systems for winter storage. This brings the herbicide to the deep root systems, where it does the most good. We have consistently gotten excellent results with ammonium sulfate, 0.75 quart of glyphosate or its equivalent, and a quart of 2,4,D. If you have tough broadleaf perennials such as milk weed, hemp dogbane, trees, jimsonweed, etc. Dr. Hahn of Cornell suggests swapping the 2,4,D for 2 – 4 ounces of Banvel® or Clarity® (no endorsement stated or implied- read and follow label directions)

Rotations start with taking out a sod field, and finish by seeding a row crop back to hay again. NOW is the time to make those decisions. Sod fields sprayed in the fall can be no-till, zone tilled, or one pass minimum till planted in the spring for a tremendous savings in time, fuel, and soil. The sod can be completely killed with herbicide and application for much less than the cost of moleboard plowing and disking. The later you wait to spray, the less control you have of the old alfalfa and tough broadleaf weeds. The next spring the soil is dry, warm, mellow, and loose enough for no till planting. The tough perennials are under control so spring herbicide can be a simple, low cost mix.

Even for those without no-till planters, the fall kill allows for narrow shank chiseling with a leveling devise such as S-tines or shallow set aerating tines implement behind for one pass tillage in sod fields. Farmers have been doing this for years, and report the soil works

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up very mellow. To do the **same with a moleboard** takes **3 times longer** at a **cost of nearly 4 times** what a one pass chisel can accomplish on the same acre.

## Kill sods NOW for very early corn silage

If you are short on forage, harvesting some very early corn silage in August could help ease the situation. To do that you need to be ready and plant early. Having seed and fertilizer on hand before the weather breaks in spring is one way. The other is to fall kill your sod field NOW so they will warm and drain faster in the spring. Fall kill allows a bigger jump in the spring as you do not have to wait for the ground to dry all 8 inches. If the top 4 inches is at a friable state, then you can no till. When I did the original work of fall killing sods in early 1980's we saw much more rapid early growth than with spring killed sods.

Planting an early day corn (as this letter covers a huge geographic area, what is early you need to work out with your seed dealer) at a high population can give you excellent quality forage. We normally plant 100 – 110 day corn, so a short season corn is 82 day or less. Research we have conducted over the past 4 years has shown that the shorter season corn is shorter in stature. This reduces silage yield. We found we could offset that by planting a higher population which brought yields up significantly. Previous years, and last year's more detailed population study, indicated that a harvested populations of about 40,000 for an 82 day corn was best. This year we planted an 82 day corn on April 16. It was starting to tassel at the first of July. If we had a normal season, the crop would have hit close to 20 ton/a (based on previous year's yields) **of mature silage about August 10**. Unfortunately, we were short on water throughout June, so by July 1 when it really turned dry, the crop just stopped growing. The picture at the right was the corn stage on July 1 but the picture was made the end of August and there was NO more growth. No, you were not penalized for having a higher population. Numerically, the highest average yield was at 40,000 as we found in previous years, but there was no significant difference between all the populations as water, not plant tissue was the most limiting factor. We still harvested over 15 tons/A of 35% DM silage for a crop that stopped July 1.



The good news is that the BMR sorghum, planted after the harvest of a 9.5 ton/A triticale silage, averaged over 20 tons/acre—but we will save that for another newsletter.

Sincerely,

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Hand  
to Better  
Agriculture**

