

Pest Protection Essential for Summer Alfalfa Yields

Brent Johnson, Alfalfa Product Lead - Syngenta

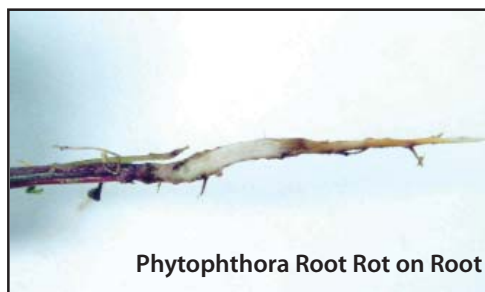
Summer is around the corner and alfalfa growers are assessing two things: challenges in their fields today and preparation for fall planting. In summer months, growers must guard against foliar damage, which is the main threat to successful yields. For a newly seeded stand to succeed in the fall, growers should focus on minimizing stress to the young plant, which includes keeping pests away.

The main challenges to watch for in the coming months are potato leafhoppers, aphids, spring and summer blackstem, and leaf spots. Here are some tips for pest prevention and management to maximize summer alfalfa yields:

- **Constantly monitor.** Get out in the field to look for symptoms of disease and insect infections, as well as any general signs of ailing plant health. Record your findings to track populations over time and year to year.
- **Protect against insects.** Insects not only reduce forage yield and quality, but their bites leave holes in the plant that are easy entry points for disease pathogens. For years, growers have relied on Warrior II with Zeon Technology® insecticide to keep pests like potato leafhopper, aphids, and other insects under control so there is more forage to harvest.
- **Protect against diseases.** The most common foliar diseases affecting alfalfa are spring and summer blackstem and leaf spots. These



Glandular hairs



Phytophthora Root Rot on Root



Phytophthora Root Rot on Leaves

diseases can cause poor quality crops and reduced forage yields. With Quadris® fungicide, growers can manage these diseases so plants can focus on growth and forage quality rather than fighting diseases.

Looking ahead to the fall planting season, here are some tips for early pest prevention and management:

- **Buy quality seed products.** To ensure alfalfa crop health from the start, purchase quality seed varieties with resistance to key root rot diseases like *Aphanomyces* and *Phytophthora*. Planting NK® brand alfalfa seed varieties with the Genuity® Roundup Ready® trait is an efficient option to prevent weeds from competing with crops for nutrients and helps allow a solid stand to emerge.
- **Choose growing sites carefully.** Alfalfa is best suited for areas with moist but well-drained soil. Fields that are too arid will not produce good crop yields; however, areas that are too wet will encourage pathogen breeding.
- **Rotate crops.** Rotate alfalfa with non-legume plants every few years to prevent fungal development.

With an integrated pest management plan, growers will be well-prepared for the challenges each season brings. Syngenta is here to better serve the alfalfa acre through our strong product line and knowledgeable team. **syngenta.**

©2012 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow all bag tag and label instructions before buying or using Syngenta products. The instructions contain important conditions of sale, including limitations of warranty and remedy. Some crop protection products and seed treatments may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your state or local extension service before buying or using these Syngenta products. Warrior II with Zeon Technology is a Restricted Use Pesticide. Syngenta supports a FIFRA Section 2(ee) recommendation for Quadris at 6-15.5 fl. oz./A in alfalfa to control spring and summer blackstem in IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI.

Based on the decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 27, 2011, Genuity® Roundup Ready® Alfalfa seed is available for sale and distribution by authorized Seed Companies or their dealers for use in the United States only. This seed may not be planted outside of the United States, or for the production of seed, or sprouts.

Warrior II with Zeon Technology is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops and weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift onto blooming plants while bees are foraging adjacent to the treatment area. NK®, Quadris® and Warrior II with Zeon Technology® are registered trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

Monsanto Company is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS). Monsanto products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Monsanto's Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products in Commodity Crops. This product has been approved for import into key export markets with functioning regulatory systems. Any crop or material produced from this product can only be exported to, or used, processed or sold in countries where all necessary regulatory approvals have been granted. Do not export Genuity® Roundup Ready® alfalfa seed or crop, including hay or hay products, to China pending import approval. It is a violation of national and international law to move material containing biotech traits across boundaries into nations where import is not permitted. Growers should talk to their grain handler or product purchaser to confirm their buying position for this product. Excellence Through Stewardship® is a registered trademark of Biotechnology Industry Organization.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate. Genuity®, Roundup Ready® and Roundup® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. ©2012 Monsanto Company.