

MILLE LACS SOIL SERVICE ASSN. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

FSA DATES, DEADLINES, OR MESSAGES

NITROGEN AND SOYBEANS

Thinking unconventionally in conventional farming.

If you want to grow high-yield soybeans, you have to provide the soybeans with some form of nitrogen. We all know soybeans create their own nitrogen, but how much nitrogen? That is determined by several factors, including the organic matter/humus content, which I have written about several times. Most soils around our area have around 1.5% to 3% organic matter. For the nitrogen efficiency, soils need to have 5 to 7% organic matter. So, what can we do if our soils are not helping our soybeans activate the nodules and produce the nitrogen they need? We side-dress our beans with a special Mille Lacs Soil Service blend of nitrogen/sulfur/calcium. It may sound crazy, but this is what the farms that are getting 60+ bushel beans are doing. A 60 bushel bean crop has a crop removal of 195# of nitrogen. And a little help getting there isn't a bad idea. My suggestion would be if you are interested in doing something like this, do a field or 2, whether it is your best or worst field, so you can see the results, then you can make a better educated guess on if it makes sense for you.

BORON

The role of boron in soybean growth and development.

Boron is essential for all plant growth and is known to promote flowering, pollen germination, grain fill, and yield where boron is applied near flowering.

Soybeans, like all legumes, have a high boron requirement. If making a supplemental boron application, one should also reevaluate potassium (K). Peak potassium uptake is between R2 and R3 in soybeans, and it is not uncommon to have short-term transient potassium during peak demand. Furthermore, depending on regional soil types, the additions of zinc (Zn), manganese (Mn), and iron (Fe) may also be beneficial. The addition of molybdenum (Mo) may also be beneficial for nodule health and nitrogen assimilation.

Thank you For Choosing Mille lacs Goil Genvice!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces his height and spots a man below. He lowers the balloon farther and shouts, "Excuse me! Can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, hovering about 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am," the man replies, "how'd you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but no use to anyone."

The man below said, "You must be in management."

"I am, but how'd you know?"

"Well," says the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

SULFUR

In protein production, sulfur is a constituent of three sulfurcontaining amino acids (cysteine, cystine, and methionine), which are the building blocks of protein. About 90% of plant sulfur is present in these amino acids.

Adequate sulfur is essential for the synthesis of oils for oil seeds and for the activation of enzymes. Activation of enzymes aids in biochemical reactions in the plants, increases crop yields, and improves product quality, both of which determine the market price a farmer would get for their produce.

With reference to crop quality, sulfur improves protein and oil percentage in seeds. It is associated with special metabolisms in plants and the structural characteristics of protoplasm. Sulfur is one of seventeen essential plant nutrients. It is essential for the growth and development of all crops, without exception. Like any essential nutrient, sulfur also has some key functions in plants. In short... increase your sulfur with ammonium sulfate (AMS) for higher protein levels.

SPRAYING SEASON

Spraying season is upon us, our employees do know where most of the fields are, but any mapping that we can do ahead of orders will help us get to you and your neighbors in a timely fashion. With the next wave of spraying, if you please call in with your blend numbers, that helps us behind the counter, and we greatly appreciate it!



"Put your trust in us."

We've been in the business for over 55 years, we know what we're doing and we do it well. We still believe in a firm handshake, a hard day's work, and the love our customers have for the land. We're here for you from the first soil sample until harvest. If you want the best, done right & at a fair price - put your trust in us.

-Mille Lacs Soil Service Assn.

COMMON WEED FOR THE SEASON

Yellow nutsedge, cyperus esculentus, is found all over the US in cultivated fields in both rich and sandy soils; it is not grass but rather a sedge. This is evident in the stem, which is triangular in cross-section, not as round as grasses. The leaves are bright green and have a waxy appearance. It grows faster than many lawn grasses, so it is often noticed when it outgrows the surrounding grass. It will also remain a bright green in the summer when the surrounding lawn grass may be a lighter green. It thrives in low spots and high moisture areas that are currently dry. The plant is a perennial, reproducing by seed and underground tubers. The underground tubers or nutlets can remain dormant in the ground for several years. The appearance of nutsedge indicates soils are seriously out of sorts, with very low calcium and available phosphates, with very high levels of potassium and magnesium. Soils are likely to have low humus and porosity.

YELLOW NUTSEDGE

