

**SALES TEAM**

Phillip Rogers	731-695-0240
Bill Brooks	731-617-1377
Lance Carter	731-610-1794
Bobby Deaton	662-212-2979
John Hines	731-780-1021
Gibb McGowan	901-734-3470
Brad Mitchell	662-415-4486
Corbett Moss	901-827-6410
Andy Rowsey	731-659-1881
Barrett Rowsey	662-415-2067
Hunter Sheehan	901-414-6596
Clint Wilson	731-267-5551
Rick Wilson	731-780-5111

**PRECISION TEAM**

Johnny Craft	731-609-1289
Jeremy McKay	731-616-5661
Matt Sanders	731-212-1285
Tre Smith	662-763-7909

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STARKVILLE, MS  
PERMIT NO. 73

Timely advice and information from **Mid-South Farmers Co-op**

2016 Issue 4

## What is potassium doing for you – do you have enough?



For crops to reach their full potential, they must contain the right level of potassium.

Soil tests resulting in low to very low K levels are up 12% from 2010 to 2015, with 48% of all soil tests indicating low to very low levels of K. Tissue samples during this time are following the same trends, with almost all samples across all crops testing deficient to responsive from V7 through fruiting stages.

What does this mean for our crops and our crop yields? First, we have to answer a question: what does K do for our crops?

Potassium activates at least 60 different enzymes involved in plant growth. It also helps stabilize plant pH between 7 and 8 ... optimum for most enzyme reactions. The amount of K present in the cell determines how many of the enzymes can be activated and the rates at which chemical reactions (growth) can proceed. One of those being the all-important production of ATP, which is vital for photosynthesis.

Potassium is also used to regulate the opening and closing of states - the process through which leaves exchange carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), water vapor, and oxygen with the atmosphere. Potassium aids roots in the absorption of water and other nutrients. As a result, plants with an insufficient supply of K are much more susceptible to water stress (drought).

There are many more functions of K in the plants that we grow but we do not have room here to discuss them. If you have questions about K or any other nutrients, contact one of your agronomists at Mid-South Farmers Co-op.



Andy Rowsey  
Outside Sales Agronomist

How potassium works to increase crop yields.

- Promotes root growth
- Reduces drought stress
- Activates enzymes
- Reduces water loss and wilting (Turgor Pressure)
- Reduces respiration (energy loss)
- Enhances translocation of sugars and starches
- Increases protein content of plants
- Reduces lodging
- Helps retard crop diseases

FUEL FOR THE HOME STRETCH.

**MAX-IN**  
By WINFIELD

- Service-Focused
- Farmer-Owned and -Controlled
- Earnings Returned to Farmers
- Local Ownership and Focus
- Regional and National Resources

## Options for post-emergence applications in soybeans for Palmer pigweed

With respect to Palmer amaranth, herbicides such as Cobra @ 12.5 oz., Flexstar @ 1-1.5 pints, Prefix @ 32 oz., Warrant Ultra @ 50 oz. and Ultra Blazer @ 1-1.5 pints seem to provide the most consistent control when Palmer amaranth is small (< 2 to 3 inches). In situations where additional residual activity is needed, Prefix or Warrant Ultra would be a better option. Liberty @ 29-32 oz. is an additional option for effective Palmer amaranth control, but is only for use in a LibertyLink soybean system.



There are several options available to control Palmer amaranth.

## Water GPA and contact herbicides

How many times have you heard, “Water is the cheapest thing you can put in the tank?” Or how about this one: “Coverage, coverage, coverage!” By now, both of these should be familiar. Glyphosate-resistant weeds have led us into uncharted territory for some but for many are a reminder of pre-RR crops, pre-1996. Everyone agrees that a multiple mode of action, multiple-pass program is essential to keeping a crop weed free. And with resistance has come a higher usage of contact herbicides. Their biggest weakness is that, in general, contact herbicides only kill the part of the plant contacted by the spray. Yes, it's possible to spray and kill just half of a weed and watch the other half live happily ever after. Plants that develop a large or thick canopy can even shield themselves from herbicides. Weeds sprayed with a contact herbicide may have the outer canopy burned off while the inner canopy and stems remain relatively unaffected. Most plants quickly grow out of this type of injury, especially vigorous weeds. This is the biggest reason why contact herbicides are most effective on small weeds. It's all about coverage.

For several years, it became customary to use 10 GPA of water as a carrier. But the label often requires more. For example, the Flexstar label says 15 GPA. The Cobra label starts at a minimum of 10 GPA and goes up to 20 GPA depending upon weed pressure and weeds that are at the maximum labeled growth stage at time of application. Likewise, the Liberty label recommends 15-20 GPA. With the ever-changing weed dynamics, there are no cookie-cutter recommendations concerning GPA of water. Using the correct adjuvant, correct rate, understanding the right weed spectrum, and even spraying at the correct time of day are all factors influencing the desired weed control. But none plays a more important role than using the right amount of water. Please check with your local Mid-South agronomy sales specialist or myself for more detailed label information for each herbicide. And now I must end with this advice and disclaimer: always read and follow manufacturers label and instructions.



If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, an option in your website account enables you to sign up for it there. Visit [midsouthcoop.com](http://midsouthcoop.com) for more information.

## Tire service on call

As we continue with this year's crop, you are sure to face issues with the tires on your equipment. Mid-South Co-op is prepared to help you stay in the field and keep your equipment running. Tire flats are never a good thing and cost you time and money, so we are committed to helping you reduce losses due to flats. We have two tire trucks that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Both of our service truck operators are experienced with any size tire and can fix your flats in the field or at the shop. We offer all major brand tires at competitive prices and keep most sizes in stock in order to get you going fast. With the hot and dry weather, you will no doubt be running pivots. Make sure to keep an eye on those pivot tires and avoid costly breakdowns a flat tire may cause on a pivot. With our reliable equipment, competitive prices and experienced service truck operators, we are not just good at 24 hour in-field service, we ARE better than the best! If you have a flat or need a tire replaced on some of your equipment, call Steve Hammons at (731) 658-1534 (office) or (731) 609-2686 (cell.) Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to serving you.

## Maintain your planter for better crops

As planting season draws to an end, it's a great time to evaluate your crop stand. Planter performance is very important because we only get one shot at planting. Every planter mistake that is made adds up in yield loss. Planter performance is very crucial in every single crop. A few key points to check are population per 1/1000 of an acre, row cleaner working height, late emerging plants, and closing wheel ground pressure. We have the solutions to help maximize the performance of your planter. Summer maintenance is just as important as winter prep work. Removing the vacuum disc will relieve the pressure from the plate, return brushes to normal stiffness, and eliminate the food for rodents. Mechanical meters should be removed, cleaned out, and stored out of the sun. We will be happy to discuss options with you to ensure you maximize your planter's performance and maximize yield.



To keep your planter humming along from season to season, it's crucial to perform regular maintenance and inspect every part of the machine. It will pay dividends come harvest time.

## Irrigation timing

### Soybeans R1-R2

- 10 gal. UAN
- 2 gal. KTS + 2 gal water
- 1 qt. Ultra Che corn mix
- 1 pt. liquid boron 10%

### Cotton

Pinhead to match head square - 20-30 units N and 4-5 gal KTS. Another 20-30 units N at first bloom. Some also put boron on at first bloom and early boll fill.



Timely irrigation of soybeans, cotton, and corn can make a big difference at harvest time.

### Corn

- V10 15-30 units N
- V15 15-30 units N
- More N if needed up till tassel
- Potassium and phosphorus as needed



A clean, robust cotton field like this one can be achieved through multiple applications of PGR products

## Avoid rank cotton, manage your PGRs to maximize yield

The heat of the summer is here, which is great news for your cotton crop. Soon the heat units will be piling up, nodes will be stacking, and flowers will be blooming. Warm, wet conditions we face lead to excessive vegetative growth, so keep the weather forecast in mind. Remember, Compact and other Pix-type products only control current and future growth, so start scouting early and keep your height in check with multiple applications of Compact.

A very useful method to determine the need for a PGR application is measuring the growth of the upper five internodes. These five internodes are the only areas where stem elongation occurs. If the third internode is greater than 3-4 inches or the top five internodes combined are greater than 7-9 inches, a PGR application will be needed to limit vegetative growth. Remember, limiting vegetative growth doesn't hurt the plant, it just redirects the energy and nutrients into the reproductive flowers and bolls, increasing boll retention and weight.

Start early to control early-season growth and stack the internodal space low on the stalk. This will help with early boll development and retention, limiting boll rot, and potentially earlier maturation. The first application of Compact should be made around matchhead square at 2-4 oz/ac. followed by another 2-4oz/ac. of Compact at 7-14 days after first application. This should give the plant a healthy dose of PGR to keep early season growth controlled. Later-season application generally increase in rate but vary depending on weather and crop growth. Late-season applications of Compact should be applied in the same 7-14 day window and could range from 8-12 oz/ac., or in some cases up to 24 oz/ac. for a final shot. Always consult with Mid-South Farmers Co-op agronomist for more direct recommendations. We will gladly advise on necessary Compact applications.