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The Growers Solution

SUMMER 2006

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VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

Ignore Asian Soybean Rust? Not Yet!

By Jim Halbeisen, Director of Research

In 2005 Asian soybean rust was a problem only in Southeastern United States. 2006, however, could be a different story.

According to the January 2006 issue of *The Corn and Soybean Digest*, in July of 2005 rust spores were collected in a special rain water collection system in both Minnesota and South Dakota. This is an important detection even though it's not known if the spores were still living. The indication is that the rust may not necessarily have originated in the southeast, but, rather, it might possibly have come from Mexico via Texas.

An early February 2006 rust find in Texas confirms it can enter the United States across different borders. The Texas location places Asian soybean rust in position to move with the prevailing winds north into the Midwest. Therefore, farmers in the central part of the country, even Canada, will have to be on the alert and be watching the rust's progression north from Texas as well as from Florida and Georgia.

Also, with 2006's milder winter, versus 2005's, the rust may start the season from further north allowing it to become more active and spread north sooner. Hot and dry weather will slow the progression, whereas a wetter season may spread the rust. This summer's weather will have a definite impact on the rust migration.

(Note: The April 2006 issue of *The Corn and Soybean Digest* has a complete listing of registered Asian soybean rust fungicides along with a clear picture of the stages in the soybean's growth when they should be applied. Also, do not overlook the fact that foliar spraying GNS has been effective combating other fungi. This is **NOT** to say GNS alone will do the job with Asian soybean rust. At this point we simply don't know, but we doubt that it will. However, we would like to see the results of plots where the recommended fungicides are sprayed on using GNS as a carrier as opposed to plots where it is not used. This would give us some insight into the role GNS could play in the rust drama.)■

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"Darth" Tops Ohio Garden Club Competition

By Jennie Henry

A Grower's grown plant won top honors at the Garden Club of Ohio Convention Flower Show in April of 2006. Jeanette Henry, wife of Growers' President Joe Henry, won the orchid division and the Award of Merit for the entire container division with her black orchid.

Jeanette has tended to "Darth", as she has named her black orchid, for several years. It is unique in that the flower is a dark purple color

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Healthier Humans

Staff

In 1936 the 74th United States Congress printed Document No. 264 *Modern Miracle Men*. One conclusion of the document was:

“Disease preys most surely and most viciously on the undernourished and unfit plants, animals and human beings alike, and when the importance of these obscure mineral elements is fully realized the chemistry of life will have to be rewritten.”

Could the mysteries of a recent study “England Healthier Than U.S.” which was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* be related to the “obscure” minerals mentioned in the conclusion of *Modern Miracle Men*. We know that agribusiness has given these minerals little attention since they are not always necessary for large volume production.

Or are the developments U.S. agribusiness uses directly influencing the mysteries of this study? These would include agricultural chemicals for plants (herbicides, insecticides or fungicides) or for animals (hormones, growth promoters or antibiotics); as well as all the implications of genetic manipulation. Some of these are used in England, but some are not part of their agriculture.

Growers Chemical Corporation knows that the use of mineral nutrition for plants and animals at the proper time and proper placement will lower the amount of minerals necessary for



use which could lead to a reduction of the amount of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico; but, is not very conducive to creating the jobs that come with massive infrastructure to handle large quantities of minerals for plants and animals.

By advocating healthier soils, with the use of the single element calcium, could a small enterprise be a threat to a philosophy that

directly profits from the health care expense that is twice as much in the United States as it is in England?

The approach of Growers Chemical Corporation is to educate our clientele and then let them decide “why the United States fared so miserably” in the health comparison with England. ■

Forage and Tissue Testing Confirm Field Results

By Matt Gooding, Growers District Manager

David started using the Growers Program in 1957. As a kid I would run from the bus excited to ask him if I could run the combine, but was often disappointed to find him and then Growers Director of Research Wilbur Franklin using it in some check plots they had put out earlier in the spring.

Later, however, my interest grew in seeing the differences in the trials we put out. One spring I put out a rotary hoe check plot in wheat. I gained 22 bu/acre where I rotary hoed over where I didn't. That hooked me and since have done hundreds of comparisons, followed trends, and taken tissue and forage samples here on the farm and with dozens of my customers.

The tissue test of ripe stake tomatoes (see chart #1) shows a large gain in quality over typically grown tomatoes. The major and trace elements all read considerably higher with the tomatoes on the Growers Program. The only exception was the calcium which relates to the

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Chart #1 Tomato Tissue Test Commercially Grown vs. Growers Grown

	Commercially Grown	Growers Grown
Protein	10.37%	20.50%
Nitrogen	1.66%	3.28%
Calcium	0.28%	0.23%
Magnesium	0.15%	0.27%
Phosphorus	0.58%	0.72%
Potassium	2.66%	2.93%
Iron	80 ppm	97 ppm
Manganese	18 ppm	22 ppm
Copper	9 ppm	11 ppm
Zinc	31 ppm	42 ppm
Boron	12 ppm	18 ppm
Sulfur	0.14%	0.19%

Chart #2 Tissue Tests Cortland Apples Commercial Grown and Commercial Plus Growers

	Commercially Grown	Plus 6 gpa Growers
Protein	2.12%	3.00%
Calcium	0.04%	0.07%
Magnesium	0.05%	0.06%
Phosphorus	0.05%	0.08%
Potassium	0.59%	0.58%
Iron	115 ppm	90 ppm
Manganese	2 ppm	4 ppm
Copper	1 ppm	1 ppm
Zinc	1 ppm	2 ppm
Boron	0 ppm	2 ppm
Sulfur	0.02%	0.05%

Soils, Their Use, Abuse and Restoration

First in a Series
By Sam Niblett

(This entertaining article, by our long time and good friend, Sam Niblett of Easton, Maine describes his tortuous introduction into raising potatoes. Although written in 1981, its message is relevant and timely today. Because his narrative needs to be told in its entirety, we are presenting this in a series of segments to appear in future issues of the TGS. Eds.)

PREFACE

The soils of our nation, indeed of the entire world, are deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The mushrooming of the population with its increased demand for food and fiber makes it essential to win a war mankind seems to be losing badly here in the last quarter of the 20th century.

"The profoundest of truths are spoken with a whisper," usually, while the ears of the masses are tuned to well orchestrated, profit motivated half truths.

In no area can this be more clearly seen than in dealing with the soil to which we owe our very existence.

If ever we majored in minors, it has been in the production of food crops since World War II.

The following pages identify my early problems growing potatoes and my unorthodox, if not "heretical" methods used in achieving a measure of coexistence with the forces that were

threatening to destroy me, just as they have to so many others who have attempted to combine the good life of farming with good business principles. S.N.

IN THE BEGINNING

I remember it well. It was "Halloween Eve," in 1973. My wife, our two children, the cat and I arrived with our earthly possessions aboard a potato truck that had been looking for a "back haul" from New Hampshire, where we lived, into the heart of Maine's Aroostook County — the famous potato empire which furnished markets as far west as Chicago with potatoes of outstanding taste and quality, well before the West eventually established its share of the market.

We had sold our house and decided that if we could survive (where six out of seven potato farmers over the previous forty years had not) "up there" in the northern quarter of the world, it would be a nice place to live and raise the children.

How do you like "them odds" for an unemployed real estate salesman and with a wife raised within 30 miles of New York City?

I had read many books and extension service bulletins pertaining to the potato business and with my basic love for the land, along with having been raised on a small dairy farm, I proceeded with a confidence that, although necessary, nearly "did me in."

(Below are excerpts from a letter and a photo Bev Mast, Growers District Manager, received from a satisfied customer. Eds.)

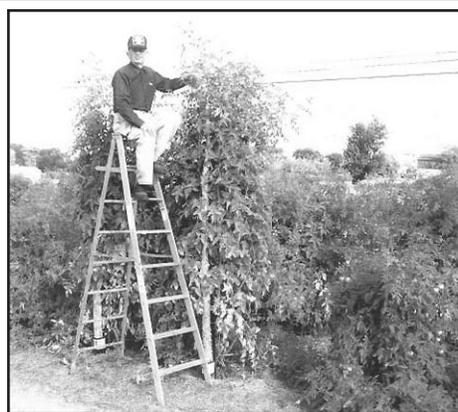
September 19, 2005

Dear Bev:

Enclosed is a photo of some tomato plants grown this year with Growers Nutritional Solutions as the principle plant food.

On Memorial Day, when the plants were put out into the field, they were a mere six inches tall. By Labor Day, they measured more than ten-feet tall.

The plants were sprayed lightly with Growers every Friday night throughout the summer. Ammonium sulfate was applied before planting and liquid fish and fresh sea water from Ocean City, NJ, were applied in June. That's right — sea water — at the rate of one-half gallon per plant. Two books suggested this application — *Sea Energy Agriculture* by Maynard Murray and *Fertility From The*



Ocean Deep by Charles Walters. In fact, I also sed sea water on the blueberries and Christmas trees.

The customers and family are raving about the size and taste of the tomatoes. And the production per plant is stupendous.

Sincerely,
Don Hawthorne
Limerick, Pennsylvania

The winter of 1973-74 was spent working in a potato house, asking questions and buying used potato equipment.

I had concluded 50 acres, although smaller by half than the average farm in Maine, was enough in a good year and too many in a bad one. The used two-row equipment would certainly handle it.

My wife and several "seed cutters" halved, quartered, and prepared the seed potatoes for planting. One man and I prepared the ground by plowing, bushes and all. Except for 18 or 20 acres that had been rented out, this farm had not been farmed for eight years. The soil was thin, rocky and very hard. Plowing was difficult, and when it rained, water would stand for days causing water rot and other problems in the potato crop. Storage of the crop was difficult since wet potatoes tend to heat when placed in large bins, and breakdown soon follows.

I decided not to try to outguess the market, so I contracted an area processor to take a large portion of the crop each month for its french fry department. The \$6 per barrel (165 lb.) wouldn't make me rich, but it should, I reasoned, recoup my costs and feed the family. How can you beat a plan like that for your first year in business? ■

On The Road Again

SUMMER, 2006

This summer Growers Nutritional Solutions is scheduled to set up and staff booths at the following upcoming farm shows. It's a great time to stop in and review your plant food and mineral supplement programs, hear about new developments at Growers or just chat with the folks who make it all happen — your friends and neighbors.

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|-------------|---|
| July 11-13 | Wisconsin Farm Technology Days
Sheboygan Co., WI |
| July 18-20 | Michigan Ag Expo
East Lansing, MI |
| Aug. 1-3 | Farmfest
Redwood Co., MN |
| Aug. 8-10 | Empire Farm Days
Seneca Falls, NY |
| Aug. 15-17 | Penna Ag Progress Days
Rock Springs, PA |
| Sept. 19-21 | Ohio Farm Science Review
London, OH |

Hope To See You!

Growers

NUTRITIONAL SOLUTIONS

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Our Research is Your Profit

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More About Growers

We hope you will find this newsletter helpful and interesting and we welcome your input. Please send letters-to-the-editor, comments, suggestions, etc. to: Growers, P.O. Box 1750, Milan, OH 44846, call 1-800-437-4769, fax 419-499-2178, email to: growers@hmcltd.net or see our website: www.growersnutritional.com

Darth

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and the leaves are spotted. The black orchids are in the paphiopedilum group.

The judge commented on the wonderful foliage. Jeanette said that most orchids in the competition had foliage that was lighter green, limp and tired looking. Even though "Darth" has leaves that are dark with light colored spots, his leaves looked plump, vibrant and shiny.

Jeanette applies Growers Nutritional

Forage and Tissue

Continued from page 2

fact that the high calcium limestone application on the Growers plot happened just before planting, so the limestone hadn't had time to release its calcium yet. Flavor, color and keeping ability were all higher wherever Growers Nutritional Solutions (GNS) was regularly applied.

The apple chart (#2) shows where adding just 6 gallons of GNS over the season gave large gains in nutrient content. The neat thing with this test was the boron reading. Where GNS was sprayed, the tissue contained 2 parts/million. But there was no boron in the control even though the farmer had been spraying the element by itself on the trees for many years. We have found that trying to spray an element on a crop to correct a known deficiency does not mean it will show up in the tissues. Elements work together and are needed by one another to do their work. This is the beauty of GNS; complete base elemental nutrition covers all the plant's needs to build good tissue structure. This results in increased flavor, quality and longevity.

I also enjoy watching trends. We often hear that the Growers Program wears out soil, but I have yet to see that "fact" supported. One grain

Solutions (GNS) on a "weakly - weekly" basis. She places 3 to 4 drops of GNS in 2 quarts of Milan city water (chlorine, flouride and all) and wets the potting material each week. Inside, she rotates her orchids between a west and an east facing window. In the warmer months, they spend the time outside under the shade of a row of pine trees. ■

farmer in my area recently raised 247 bushels of corn on 10 gallons of GNS and 90 units of N from a farm that has been on the Growers Program for 50 years. Here on our farm, our hay forage tests show us proteins in the 20's, potassium to calcium ratios less than 2 to 1, and RFV in the uppers 100's. This is on a farm that has seen nothing but GNS and lime over the past 38 years.

Testing aside, affirmation that the Growers Program stands the test of time is in the plants and animals. Our beef cattle operation has needed a vet only once in the last 12 years, and we continue to have more customers than animals to sell. The chickens on ground corn mixed with a little GNS lay eggs in the middle of winter. The hayfields remain productive into their 6th or 7th year and the farm's ability to recover from excess rain or drought continues to improve. And while we keep looking for the predicted long-term "over-liming" damage, that old garden, limed in excess of 100 tons/acre 35 years ago, keeps cranking out mouth watering produce every year

With results like that, who needs tests? ■