Getting the Most Out of Your Foliar Sprays:

The Benefits and Protocols of an Efficient Application

Foliar sprays are an essential tool for any agricultural operation, both large and small. They are cost-effective, easy to apply and offer an immediate benefit to the crops they are applied to. Foliar sprays provide essential nutrients and act as a preventative measure to pest and disease infestations. Foliar sprays act as an insurance plan that can help farmers get the maximum benefit from their crops with minimal input, making them a wise choice for any farming operation. The cost-saving benefits of using foliar sprays can be considerable, as they often take the place of other costly treatments.

A well designed foliar spray includes...

- Clean Water
- Plant Nutrients / Fertilizers
- Plant Biostimulants (seaweed, hormones, enzymes…)
- Microbial Biostimulants (fulvic acids, humic substances…)
- Microbial Inoculants
- Surfactant

Mixing Sequence

- Fill Tank with Clean Water
- Pesticides (Dilute before adding any biostimulants or innoculants)
- Fertilizers / Nutrients
- Plant Biostimulants
- Microbial Biostimulants
- Microbial Inoculants (Do not mix with pesticides. Contact AgriBio with any question regarding compatability of microbials.)
- Surfactant (Should always be added last)

Timing of Application

- Evening
- Early Morning

When NOT to Apply

- When leaf surface temperatures are above 78°F or outside temperatures exceed 82°F
- During rainfall
- While there is heavy dew

pH and EC

- Ideal pH range for nutrient absorbtion is 5.2-6.4
- EC should measure below 3800 µS when applying multiple foliars a season

Water

Water is the most important ingredient in any foliar spray. Quality water is crucial in delivering nutrients efficiently to any plant. It can make or break an application.

Ideal water for foliar applications contains less than 70 ppm total hardness. If water has more than 150 ppm of total hardness, products will be up to 70% less effective because the carbonates and bicarbonates are so effective at binding with these products.

Clean Water Sources

- Rain Water
- Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water
  (The use of RO water can reduce product application rates by 30-50% compared to foliar sprays containing hard water.)
- Tested Clean Water

Inefficient Water Sources

- Softened water contains too much sodium and chloride. These nutrients will show as excessive on sap test results.
- The majority of filtered water still contains carbonates and bicarbonates. These (an)ions can bond with other nutrients and make them unavailable.
- City water has antimicrobials including chlorine and chloramine.

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Contact your AgriBio Systems sales representative for more information on formulating and applying foliar mixes.