



Should I Foliar?

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For many years experts told farmers that “foliar wouldn’t pay in row crops” unless there was an extreme micronutrient deficiency needing correction. And most of the time the experts were right. But technology has moved forward, and in this case technology has moved faster than agronomy.

New, high-yielding corn and bean hybrids place a greater demand on the soil’s nutrient supply capability than ever before. As a result, (1) many crops now outrun the soil’s ability to balance their feed thereby making targeted foliar effective; and (2) with plants growing so much faster they become more susceptible to yield-stealing diseases. These two realities are why nitrogen foliar and fungicide foliar have become so popular.

Let’s go back a few years to the Asian Rust scare when farmers put fungicides on their beans. The rust didn’t show up, but hey, we got yield increases. So we tried it on corn and got the same positive response. Now, things have progressed to the point where many corn and bean farmers are getting big yield responses by combining foliar nutrition with their fungicide applications.

Wouldn’t it be nice, though, to get those same profitable yield responses from a fertilizer/fungicide combination, but to do so with products that are non-toxic to us and to the environment? We believe that can be done. One example is to

combine an appropriate fertilizer with the non-toxic fungicide [Regalia](#). The folks that manufacture Regalia tell us that at a quart per acre, it is just as effective at preventing loss to gray leaf spot and northern blight as the chemical fungicides. Even better, Regalia mixes with practically anything and can also be used on organic crops.

At AgriEnergy we are all for economic yield increases and are big on foliar nutrition. Recall the seminar presentation by and articles about Dr. Roch Gaussoin from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Gaussoin provided us with all kinds of good, practical information about how to make foliar nutrition pay. Such things as including a sticker and penetrant, or even including a spreader if the spray droplets would just run right off the plant otherwise. Read more in the [4/9/2013](#) and [4/12/2013](#) editions of [Ground Work](#).

Bottom Line: Modern adjuvant technology and fungicides (preferably non-toxic), combined with appropriate foliar fertilizers, can be very profitable on today's high yielding crops.

Up next: What are some appropriate foliar fertilizers?