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Reduce Seedling Stress with *PercPlus*

DeltAg Product Brief
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Over the past few days, all across the Mid-South, we have watched many acres of seedling two and three leaf crops like corn, cotton and soybeans getting whipped around by unbelievably high winds and extremely warm weather for Mid-April. In other areas we have reports of cold nights, water-logged soils and stagnant seedling crops. No doubt these seedling crops are taking a beating and will require recovery time before taking off and growing like they should.

Initial Stress Creates Stress from Other Sources: When seedling crops come under stress from one source such as sand-blasting, the seedlings lose vigor, followed by loss of tolerance to other issues. These crops should be monitored, not only for scarring from sand-blasting, but also for any additional stress from fertilizer burn, insects, disease or herbicide injury. In many areas these crops are finally experiencing good growing conditions, but will have to use this time to recover rather than progress as they should. This can take from several days up to a couple of weeks.

Apply *PercPlus*: Dealer Reps are asking about foliar applications of *PercPlus*. We typically recommend a good shot of *PercPlus* any time crops are stressed. **The sooner, the better!**

This application is normally made at 16 or 24 ounces per acre broadcast. With mild stress we go with the one pint rate and if stress is fairly severe, we go with the heavier 24 ounce rate. In most situations, we will recommend *PercPlus* be applied with overhead insecticides and/or herbicides. *PercPlus* is often applied with glyphosate to RR crops and has proven to be an excellent practice. While a tank mix often works great, some severe stress cases may call for separate trips.

In Cases of Severe Stress: If severe stress is observed, it would be wise, if at all possible, to delay additional overhead herbicide applications for a few days. No one likes to hear this, but in these cases, we need to give the crop a few days after the *PercPlus* application to improve recovery, before we make the herbicide application, potentially creating even more stress. I know this means an extra application, costing the grower additional expense, but with severe stress, crop recovery really does need to be the priority. For optimum results, it would be better to make the application of *PercPlus* in an effort to enhance recovery from stress. Then wait four or five days if at all possible, before making overhead herbicide applications. This gives the crop time for recovery before putting it at risk again, but also improves the vigor of the weeds, making them easier to handle as well.

Contact *DeltAg* or Send Photos: On a final note, should you observe chlorosis or additional injury, feel free to consult your *DeltAg* Rep. You might even consider using your cell phone or a digital camera to take a close-up photo of the damaged tissue and email or even text it to *DeltAg*. There are instances where *MicroVite*, *Zinc Plus* or *Magnesium Plus* might be recommended with *PercPlus* to further aid recovery from micronutrient deficiencies brought on by stresses like water-logged soils or cold nights.

Give us a call or email if you feel we can help.