

Denny Wildman

From: Denny Wildman
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 3:26 PM
To: Denny Wildman
Subject: ROOTS, SHOOTS & FRUIT: A "Shiny" Shovel - Your Best Friend

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▶ **Roots, Shoots, and Fruit**

Agronomic Tips from Denny Wildman



**"What's the difference between a GOOD Agronomist and a GREAT Agronomist"
The Answer... The Shininess of their Shovel !**



It's true, the number of times you use your shovel is directly related to your understanding of plant health.

Hello all,

Scouting the fields should be an everyday occurrence this time of year... to look at plant stands, uniformity of the stand, weeds, bugs, and possible stress factors impacting the

plant.

BUT, don't forget to check out what's happening below it all.

Looking below ground can be an eye opener, most certainly this time of year. For example if a grower says... **"Yea, we needed to tillage dry the soil so we could plant"** --- -your question should be **"WHERE"** --- and with shovel in hand you're ready to explore what's happening with the roots.

Educating your growers is very valuable... especially when you can show them what's going on below ground --- and how it relates to plant health as well as how the crop finishes.

Inform your growers on the available tools to promote active root-growth and how to use them for the greatest benefit to their bottom line. As agronomists, it's our job .

In other words, make the shovel your best friend... **Dig, Dig, and Dig** – checkout those roots. You have options from your STOLLER tool box that are top performers in promoting and redeveloping roots. X-TRA POWER, BIOFORGE, STIMULATE, X-CYTE, and ULTIMATE (formerly Quench).

REMEMBER... fertility is reflected in the crops development. Roots are the foundation of the crop – and poor root activity lowers crop production .

For example, I'm sure you've heard a grower say, **"Yep, our crop ran out of nitrogen --- it must have leached away"** This may be true, but often the real issue may have been the roots were not actively redeveloping and had restrictions limiting plant development.

If plant stress is observed, nitrogen deficiency may be an issue, however there are other factors that may contribute to what you're seeing. So, what product is best to correct what looks to be a nitrogen insufficiency problem? It's a good question --- so call me, **but**, be assured, I'll be asking you what's happening with the roots. So keep your shovel close by, and busy, as in **"shiny"**.



Here's another observation.

(and another reason to use your shovel)

**This corn crop looks fine,
but the soil is platy and obstructing the root growth
— this is likely to reduce plant performance
especially during the reproductive stage.**

What is your action if you see this ?

Stoller tools are proven as effective in promoting redevelopment of root growth - **but** issues with soil structure may also require additional attention to recover greater value from your applied fertility program. Within the last 2 years, I've found valuable benefits from the use

of SP-1™, a biological material produced by Agri Energy.

SP-1™ has considerable merit in getting roots to develop to a greater extent in soils with structural impairment. Although not a "silver bullet", with proper use in a fertility program, SP-1™ improves soil tilth and develops musculage, a lube like substance that helps the roots penetrate the soil. This allows the roots to access and better utilize the applied inputs.



Here's to keeping your shovel shiny...



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