



## Did someone say "WET SPRING"?

Say it isn't so. Obviously, the thought of another Wet Spring is not exactly a popular topic, especially since it stacks up as the third in a row. In a Groundwork article last Fall, we drew comparisons between the **WET** conditions of 2009 and 2019, and noted the obvious similarities between the two.



When referencing 2018, we get a first-hand look at where today's challenges start. For many of us, 2018 was above average rainfall, some flooding, poor planting condition, compaction, poor harvest conditions – and then the same thing occurred all over again in 2019 for many operations.

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Someone once said, "If you want to make **SMALL** changes, change the way you **DO** things. If you want to make **MAJOR** changes, change the way you **SEE** things."

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**OK**, let's assume we're ready to consider the **MAJOR** change idea. What does it mean to **SEE** things differently? Let's begin with the big picture.

- Last year, across the Midwest, we had 19.6 million acres of prevented planting that's almost one of every ten acres planted
- In some cases, the standing water never receded

### If a field sits completely idle for an entire year, what is the sacrifice?

- Substantial loss of soil microbiology
- Water holding capacity
- Ability of water to infiltrate the soil.
- Reduction in total yield potential.

Last Fall, much of the Midwest and Northern Plains experienced one of the wettest falls on record with up to 150% - 250% above normal rainfall. **The result?** We are now coming into 2020 **WETTER** than we went into 2019. Given these facts, we can state 2020 is going to start a bit slower than what we would like.

## So, when the planters fire up and head to the field what should we be thinking about?

- First instinct is to hurry up as we are already late!!!
- Lets take this one step at a time. Our goal by planting any seed is to produce the maximum high quality yield in the number of days we do have following planting prior to harvest.
- Logically, we have the right seed, the right fertility, and the right equipment to ensure us the best chance of success.
- Do we have the right soil? Huh? How do we change our soil? We build it. The unfortunate stress the flooding we have all been experiencing not only has hurt our yields but has directly hurt our greatest asset by reducing our soils health and quality.
- Let's think **Logical**.

## BIO-LOGICAL

Here's 5 things to consider that will increase your soil's biological activity and help to combat the challenges of excessive moisture.

1. Where crops were planted last year there is an increased amount of residue to deal with. Residue in your field is literally nutrients you as a grower have already paid for... that's just waiting to be released. Why not use them? Implement a **Residue** program today to make these pre-payments available for this cropping year to see better yields and soil health from this application.

2. Corn after Corn is likely. Again, a Residue Program is recommended.

3. **MVP**, in furrow, will create an ideal soil environment for root expansion. The following photos show increased root growth from a 1.5 g/ac application of a biological in-furrow.

4. Many growers as a result of excessive water the last 3 years have high percentages of acres tightly compacted with less than ideal soil biology. **MT-17**, a broadcast application, will help reduce compaction and restore the granular soil structure our crops desire.



5. Plan to increase your use of cover crops to manage soil erosion and help build and improve soil fertility and quality.



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Give us a call today so we can help you maximize your Total Farm Profitability.