



Welcome to Ground Work

Get a Head Start on Making Improvements

2/9/2012

Even though the calendar says that it is still winter, a new growing season is just around the corner!

Don't forget about all of the **great ideas** that you heard last year and over the winter that could potentially improve your results in 2012. You probably can't implement every good idea, but you should prioritize them and come up with a plan to make the important ones happen on your farm.

Remember all the good things you heard about **cover crops**? What is your plan to start incorporating cover crops into your cropping program?

- We are fast approaching the close of the timeframe for frost seeding. One of the easiest and most beneficial cover crop practices is to frost seed Red Clover into winter small grain crops. Don't let this opportunity go by if you have small grains growing right now. Often times this can be done in combination with a top-dress nitrogen application.
- Depending on planting date of the primary crop, it might be possible to seed other legume crops, suitable to your area, to fix nitrogen ahead of grass crops, such as corn.
- Many growers seed oats early just for a green manure crop ahead of the primary crop to stimulate microbes and suppress weeds. Check with a

knowledgeable seed man in your area to see what possibilities might work on your farm.

- Don't forget to treat all of your seeds, including cover crop seeds, with **Myco Seed Treat™**. What better way to propagate beneficial microbes than on the roots of cover crops?

Didn't get **Residuce™** applied last fall? Spring applications work well also.

- Spring usually brings more consistently moist soil conditions that favor microbial action than the fall does.
- If you are in a no-till situation, there is usually enough moisture in the early spring to incorporate the **Residuce™** without tillage operations.
- Be prepared to apply **Residuce™** early to give the most amount of time for it to work ahead of planting.
- Do not apply **Residuce™** on frozen ground as that is a harsh environment for microbes to establish and flourish in.

Early spring applications of SP-1™ also help to wake up the soil life sooner and create a more positive environment to plant into. Make sure to include **SP-1™** in your tank mix with your first trip across the field.

Early spring foliar applications on hay and pasture at green-up help with the quality and quantity of the first cutting or grazing. Use products such as **SP-1™**, **Pillar 11** or **AgriBoost PK**.

And don't forget about equipment ...

- Make sure your sprayer and storage tanks are ready to go.
- Dig out the list you made last year of machine repairs or adjustments that were needed, and get 'em done.
- Make sure that your planter is in top shape before you head to the field. You can't afford delays in timeliness or anything that prevents a precision planting process.

You know it is important to get all crops off to a good start in the spring. Now is the time to get a "head start" on that "good start".

Take advantage of these early season opportunities!