

Gypsum Requirements During a Drought

There is no disputing the drought is affecting everyone, your crops included.

As aquifers are depleted, toxic levels of undesirable elements (salts) are ever-increasing. This irrigation water will degrade the soil structure with its excessive salt load and create a nutrient imbalance. The net result will manifest itself in poor water infiltration, reduced root development, and disallowing optimal plant function.

“In conjunction with a normal fall application of gypsum, consider a second application to insure mid-late season toxicities do not occur.”

In most situations we cannot alter our irrigation source(s). We can, however, minimize its harmful affect with gypsum applications. Consider that applying sub-standard irrigation water will not only reduce yield in the current year, but can have long lasting yield ramifications.

Generally, a single application of gypsum is made in the fall for season-long results. When irrigating with a compromised irrigation source the expected benefits of the gypsum are short lived. The reaction in the soil is depleted at an increased rate, leaving

your crop unprotected from the harmful effects of this water at a time when yield and quality are greatly influenced.

In conjunction with a normal fall application of gypsum, consider a second application to insure mid-late season toxicities do not occur. When demand on the fragile aquifer is greatest, salts will be at their highest concentrations. The calcium being delivered from gypsum applications will aid in leaching and nullifying their harmful effects. Timing is key, and this application can be made early enough and with equipment that will not disturb the existing crop.

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