



THE DIRT!

SOILBIOTICS COMPANY E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Weather Creates Headaches for Growers

For much of the north central and eastern U.S. it's been a cooler and wetter spring than normal, although anymore it's difficult to actually determine what is "normal." The west central plains and southwest have experienced dry conditions. A weakening La Nina weather pattern may allow more normal conditions this summer, although as we all know, weather predictions are always right, until they aren't.

The April edition of *Prairie Farmer* featured a very insightful article by Holly Spangler on adapting to changing weather. For instance, the state of Illinois still gets its yearly average (since 1980) annual rainfall of 40 inches. However, it is in a group of north Central states that have seen a 37% increase in heavy rain events and therefore that annual rainfall amount is now tending to come in gully-washers. That trend is happening nationwide in varying degrees depending on geography. Higher in the east and lower in the west, but all of the lower 48 states are seeing spottier, heavier rains and therefore the chance to lose valuable nutrients and topsoil is becoming an increasing reality.

Talk to the SoilBiotics team about how our products can help mitigate weather fluctuations by helping you better manage soil fertility, pH levels, water retention, soil porosity and percolation, plant health and vigor and much more. For more on the *Prairie Farmer* article, click on this link:

<http://www.prairiefarmer.com/weather/weather-changing-storm>

2018 Farm Bill

A recent on-line article regarding the currently in-process Farm Bill has some interesting points that we all need to remember to bring up when we talk to our non-farm neighbors and acquaintances. It was authored by Tom Vilsack, former Governor of Iowa and U.S. Agriculture Secretary. The emphasis is on making sure more people are informed about the true scope of the Farm Bill in order to help ensure broad support. Most voters not involved directly with agriculture are ill-informed about what this gigantic piece of legislation entails and who it affects. Information such as the fact that the Farm Bill (or whatever name they're using this time) covers much more than just farms and farmers. It also affects local, regional and national conservation programs, domestic and international trade, nutrition programs for the poor and the elderly, jobs and infrastructure, scientific research, forestry and many forms of energy production. The Farm Bill also provides research funding for the Land Grant Universities, which are not just a bunch of ag-state schools, but include schools like the Universities of California, Arizona and Florida, Clemson, Rutgers, and even Ivy League member Cornell to name a few. The Farm Bill effects so many aspects of our economy that it is critical everyone know what is and is not being affected. Click on this link for the entire article.

<https://theconversation.com/what-the-2018-farm-bill-means-for-urban-suburban-and-rural-america-89605>

Give Your N the Best Chance to Perform!

We want to remind you that SoilBiotics has a great lineup of products for your nitrogen supplement and nitrogen management needs. Introduced last year, these additions to our Specialty Products lineup will help you manage your N this year.

Organic Blend 5-0-0

This is a proprietary blend of our Organic Growth System component products, all of which are OMRI listed. It is a nitrogen source to be used in organic agricultural applications and may also be used in conventional agriculture programs. **Organic Blend 5-0-0** can be applied with a starter fertilizer, or can be applied as a foliar feed after emergence. In conventional programs, it can also be used as part of a weed & feed program.

Growth Supplement 30

This is a foliar applied nitrogen stabilizer that also stimulates plant metabolism, transports nutrients in plants, dissolves macro and micro elements, and enhances cell division and elongation.

NH3 CAL

This is a soluble calcium product that is used as a nitrogen management aid. It is applied **only** as a blend with Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3).

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