



THE DIRT!

SOILBIOTICS COMPANY E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

Harvey & Irma

Although they sound like a nice couple, Harvey and Irma will likely not be too popular with farmers this year. We've all been glued to the screen watching the twin disasters play out, and most coverage has rightfully focused on the effects on residents and businesses. But there will be devastating losses in the agricultural markets as well.

In Texas, it will take many months to get final figures on agricultural losses to Harvey. Initial rough estimates are that cotton, Texas's No. 2 product, lost at least a fifth of the crop worth an estimated \$135 million. Rice farmers may lose 20 percent or more of their crops, much of which is still stuck in the ground and inaccessible due to standing water and lost roadways. Estimates on damage to wheat, corn and soybeans have not yet been released.

In Florida, initial estimates are for losses of up to some crops of up to 30%. Much of the citrus crops were not yet ready to be harvested and there is much green fruit on the ground. The most severe damage has been to the grapefruit crop. Many groves had standing water for days, and the damage to tree root systems will not be evident till next year. The sugar cane crop is also estimated to have lost 10-20%. Many vegetable crops were not yet planted so the damage was likely limited.

A recent article in USA Today highlighted the huge, and mostly little known, role of faith-based groups in working with FEMA to provide massive amounts of food, water and other living necessities, in addition to actively taking over the logistics of moving and distributing these supplies. The agricultural community forms a large portion of these groups. These groups will be involved in assistance and reconstruction activities for many months, and some cases years. They will need all of our help.

The overall effect of these storms on agriculture nationally is yet to be determined. Disruptions to shipping and freight systems are being monitored. Large amounts of inputs and stored crops may have been lost and will need to be replaced, putting a strain on prices and availability. And, we still have several months to go in the traditional hurricane season. But, as with past disasters, the American farmer will persevere. And our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Time To Think About Your Residue Maintenance Program

Remember that SoilBiotics **SB5500** is the perfect component for your post-harvest residue digestion and soil maintenance program. It is a consortium of living beneficial microorganisms with the ability to degrade a wide variety of organic polymers such as starch, cellulose, chitin, and lignin. **SB5500** can:

- Break down fall residue
- Degrade plant tissue and convert it to organic matter
- Be tanked mixed with a fall annual herbicide application

Take a look at the product pages on our website to review the following products for use in your residue maintenance program: [Organic 2r – Soil Boost](#); [3 – Growth Boost/Organic 3r – Growth Boost](#); [Organic 4r – Foliar Concentrate](#); [Organic 5r – Soil Boost EA](#); [SB5500](#) and [eFISHnt 5-1-2](#).

Keep On Trucking?

As we get closer to harvesting the 2017 crop and prepping fields for 2018, please remember the new 2017 Tonnage Rebate Program as you plan your orders. This rebate will apply on any one product of the following: [Organic 2r - Soil Boost](#), or [Organic Plant Boost](#):

- Must be full pallets of 50# bagged material or bulk bags
- Rebate qualification levels of 200, 300, 400 and 500 tons of single product

Total tonnage must be ordered, shipped and paid for within calendar year. Please contact the SoilBiotics office for details at 815-929-1752.

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