

Rapid Growth Syndrome

I've had several questions over the last few days about a few scattered yellow leaf tops sticking out in some fields around the area. This appears to be classic **Rapid Growth Syndrome**. I know that sounds a little redundant when you consider how "rapidly" the entire crop has been progressing across the Tri Green Tractor area. However, sometimes a certain percentage of plants are wanting to grow faster than the leaves can unfurl.



Yellow leaves showing from corn Rapid Growth Syndrome

As far as the diagnosis, if you can't find whorls that are still twisted together (see left photo below), an easy way to determine that the whorl was recently twisted is to look for wrinkling in the leaves immediately below the yellow (see right photo below).



Twisted whorl yet to unfurl

I won't get too terribly deep into reasons why certain whorls remain wrapped together. It could be some unique environmental stress on a particular plant OR something as simple as leaves sticking together in almost an adhesive fashion due to the moisture or humidity.



Wrinkled leaf recently unfurled

Regardless, once the whorl opens up, a couple of sunlight-starved, yellow leaves become exposed. These will normally turn green after a couple nice days of sunshine, and the plant will often continue on with little or no loss in yield!

A newly unfurled yellow leaf

