



Flue-Cured Tobacco...

**SCOOP**

...A newsletter from  
Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative  
Stabilization Corporation  
[www.ustobaccofarmer.com](http://www.ustobaccofarmer.com)

## Co-op Meets STMA in China

Stabilization met with top officials of the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration (STMA) in Beijing on February 22, 2006. STMA governs the entire China tobacco industry, including tobacco production, imports, exports, processing, cigarette manufacturing, distribution and sales.

Stabilization President, Albert Johnson, and Mike Lynch, Director of Sales & Marketing, met with STMA Director General, Mr. Jiang Chengkang and his top officials. Mr. Johnson expressed sincere thanks to STMA for their purchase in October, 2005 and presented to the Director General a bronze sculpture of an eagle. Mr. Johnson said, "On behalf of our tobacco farmers, we thank you for your purchase in 2005 and we present this gift to commemorate the historic event." After the presentation, Mr. Jiang Chengkang said, "In China, the eagle symbolizes the beginning of a long journey and STMA wishes to have a long and lasting relationship with the farmers of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation." China purchased a total of 27 million pounds (farm weight) of the 2004 and 2005 crop. Stabilization supplied 21 million pounds of the total or 77.3%. Mr. Jiang Chengkang added, "We enjoy dealing directly with the U.S. tobacco farmers and we greatly appreciate the hospitality given to our buying delegation during the 30 days that they were in the U.S." STMA had selected

Stabilization to be host of the buying team in 2005.

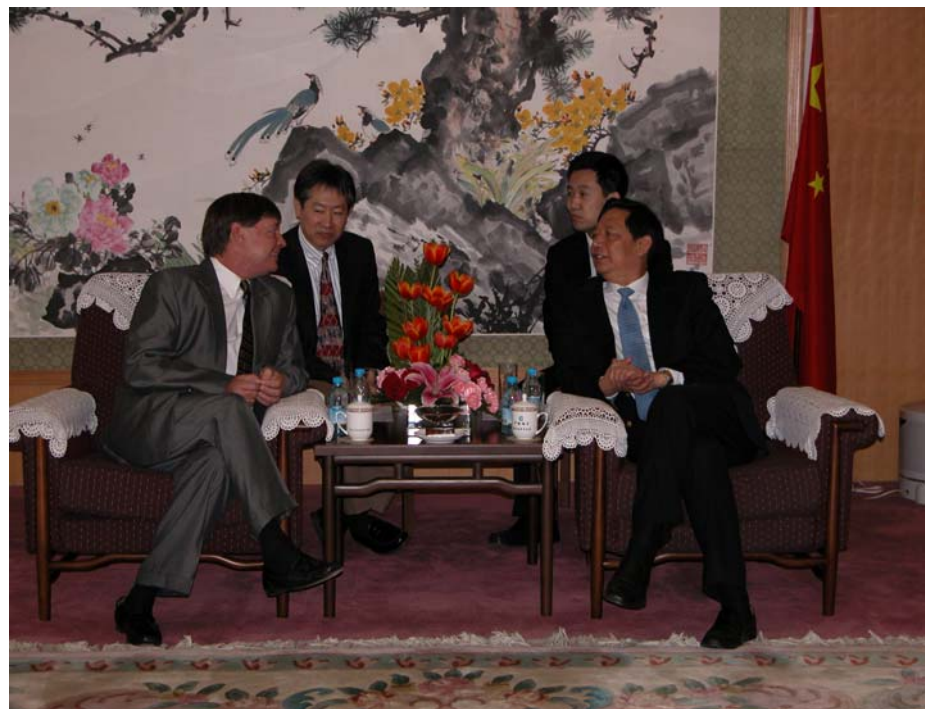
The meeting turned to discussions about China's U.S. purchase intentions for 2006. Mr. Johnson asked the Director General if China would purchase again from the U.S. in 2006. Mr. Jiang Chengkang confirmed that China will be coming back to the U.S. in 2006 and would purchase again if the crop is of good quality, good price and adequate supply. He said the buying delegation would arrive this season at approximately the same time in October.

Mr. Johnson played a vital role during the October, 2005 visit by the Chinese delegation, providing the buying team a farmer's perspective of the true cost of tobacco production in

the U.S. The buying team was impressed to have a farmer involved in the visit.

All shipments of tobacco sold to China in 2005 were completed in March. The tobacco will be distributed to seventeen of the largest cigarette manufacturers located in various provinces throughout China. Stabilization will return to China in mid-May to visit all factories that purchased tobacco in 2005 to gain insight on their needs this season.

China is a very important new customer to U.S. flue-cured tobacco farmers. Stabilization will continue efforts to seek out customers worldwide. Stabilization encourages all members to provide the best quality tobacco possible in order to maintain our reputation of quality.



Stabilization President, Albert Johnson, meets STMA Director General, Jiang Chengkang, to discuss future business between China Tobacco and U.S. flue-cured tobacco farmers.

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation is the grower owned and supported cooperative that serves flue-cured tobacco growers in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

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## 2006 Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus Information

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation would like to bring growers timely up-to-date information about Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) for 2006. The TSWV has caused a tremendous disruption in Georgia tobacco production and in other regions to a lesser extent. Flue-Cured Cooperative has discussed this issue with various universities and would like to report our findings by state.

Set forth below are recommendations provided by University Extension personnel about TSWV information for 2006.

**Florida** has not had the devastation from TSWV that Georgia and other states have had. Some isolated areas of production are affected but TSWV does not appear to cause a significant yield reduction in Florida tobacco production.

In **Georgia**, we spoke with Dr. J. Michael Moore of the University of Georgia (UGA) about his recommendations for Georgia tobacco producers on TSWV for 2006.

### "TSWV HISTORY IN GEORGIA TOBACCO

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus has grown to be a significant disease problem in tobacco production in Georgia since its discovery in 1985. It appears that the level of TSWV for a specific year may not be predicted, but TSWV does appear to now be a yearly factor in Georgia tobacco production. Therefore, growers are encouraged to take all possible steps to protect their crop from maximum loss.

At this time, the best steps available to reduce TSWV damage includes a slightly later transplanting date than is historical for Georgia tobacco production. Additionally, the combined use of ADMIRE and

ACTIGARD on greenhouse plants prior to transplanting have been shown to be able to reduce the level of TSWV damage by approximately 50%. While these treatments do not eliminate TSWV losses, they do reduce the losses.

### TOMATO SPOTTED WILT VIRUS MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Tobacco transplanted after April 7th is more likely to have less TSWV.

2. Use greenhouse plants for best results from application of ADMIRE + ACTIGARD.

ADMIRE 2F 1.4 – 1.8 oz/1000 + 1.0 oz/100,000 plants of ACTIGARD.

-or-

ADMIRE PRO 0.6 – 0.8 oz/K + 1.0 oz/100,000 plants of ACTIGARD.

- Apply and rinse into root ball 3 to 7 days before transplanting.

3. Bare Root Plants

ACTIGARD in the field bed (<\$5/A) 1.0 oz/100,000 plants + ADMIRE in Transplant Water (treated soil is left behind in beds).

ADMIRE 2F 2.4 – 2.8 oz./1000 plants.

-or-

ADMIRE PRO 0.8 – 1.2 oz/1000 plants.

- Add ADMIRE during tank filling to improve agitation.

4. What about ACTIGARD field sprays?

Research to predict the specific date of field sprays is not completed.

- (>\$25/A) - Apply ??? weeks after transplanting?" (Research not complete)

### "ADMIRE USE PRECAUTIONS

- Uniform broadcast foliar spray to seedlings in trays not more than 7 days prior to transplanting followed immediately by overhead irrigation to

wash ADMIRE PRO from foliage into potting media.

- Use only enough water to rinse the ADMIRE PRO from the foliage without leaching through the root ball.

### **ACTIGARD USE PRECAUTIONS**

- Apply ACTIGARD only to plants large enough and old enough to be transplanted.
- Apply ACTIGARD 5 – 7 days before expected transplant date.
- ACTIGARD treatment is effective and plants may be used for at least 14 days after treatment.
- Do Not Re-Treat Plants with ACTIGARD.
- Do Not Hold ACTIGARD treated plants overnight the day after removal from beds or greenhouses.
- Stand losses increase with time after removal from the greenhouse.
- Remove and transport only the number of plants which can be transplanted in a day.
- ACTIGARD treated plants DO NOT tolerate stress.
- Avoid transplanting on dry, windy days.
- Pre-water beds during periods of drought/wind before transplanting.
- A day or two delay in planting is better than planting ACTIGARD treated plants in dry beds.
- Use transplant water for best stand development.

### **NEW ADMIRE FORMULATION IN 2006**

Bayer CropScience will be selling a new formulation of ADMIRE in 2006. ADMIRE 2F has been replaced by ADMIRE Pro. ADMIRE Pro appears to be more soluble and growers are cautioned against using more water than is necessary to rinse the product from the foliage and into the containerized root-ball. For this reason, T-rail plants may need to be treated one to two days before transplanting to minimize leaching as a result of the normal irrigation water applied in this system."

In **South Carolina**, Dr. Dewitt Gooden of Clemson University gave us his thoughts on TSWV control. Dr. Gooden recommends South Carolina tobacco growers use Admire as a tray drench in the greenhouse as a tool to help lessen the effects of TSWV. He goes on to say not to forget early season flea beetle and aphid control.

In **North Carolina**, Dr. Sterling Southern of NC State University gave us his recommendations for North Carolina tobacco growers on TSWV for 2006.

"Our research indicates that there is a strong influence of winter and early spring temperatures and rainfall (amount of rainfall and number of days with rain) on tobacco thrips populations and spread of TSWV. In general, the warmer and drier the winter and earlier the spring, the more favorable the conditions are for the early development of high tobacco thrips populations and spread of TSWV. A relatively wet fall in most areas contributed to the early emergence of winter weeds, maximizing their exposure to virus being moved out of summer weeds and crops, sets the stage for an abundance of TSWV sources this spring. The warmer than average temperatures and lower than average rainfall in January, February, and early March have placed us on a trajectory toward high thrips populations, an abundance of TSWV-infected winter weeds, and early thrips flights to spread the virus into young tobacco. In short, conditions are on track for a year of high TSWV incidence."

"Grower options.

1. In areas which have never had significant TSWV (1-2% at most), we wouldn't expect big losses to TSWV this year, even if conditions are perfect for the virus. In such areas, the local source of virus just isn't very robust. In a bad year, you might expect the virus to be worse, but extreme or costly measures probably wouldn't be justified. If growers in these areas want to use Admire or Platinum for insect

control, they can probably get by with low to mid rates.

2. In areas which have had moderate rates of TSWV in the past (up to 5-6%), the response is going to be harder to call. If the grower is going to use Admire, he should use it at the high end of the normal rate-range (1.8 oz/1,000 plants for imidacloprid 2F or 0.8 oz/1,000 for Admire Pro). On-farm trials have indicated that the suppression of TSWV is usually in the range of 40-50% with 1.8 oz/1,000 plants of Admire 2F. Lower rates have not been as consistent; the level of suppression has sometimes not been statistically significant.

3. In areas where you might expect over 10 or 15% loss to TSWV, growers should consider the use of Actigard alone or in combination with Admire or Platinum. Suppression with Actigard used in the greenhouse has often been in the 60+% range and with a combination of Actigard and one of the insecticides (also applied in the greenhouse) in the 65-80% range. We have all seen significant stunting with Actigard and perhaps even more with an Actigard/insecticide combination. The tobacco appears to largely grow out of this stunting, but some growers think they also see reduced yields. Obviously, this is a tough decision and one that depends on an estimate of how bad the TSWV is likely to be without treatment. However, a stunted or slow growing plant is still going to yield more than one killed by TSWV. Thus, if based on history and our best prediction for the

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

**2006 Annual Meeting of the  
Flue-Cured Tobacco  
Cooperative Stabilization  
Corporation  
Friday, June 9, 2006  
US Flue-Cured Tobacco  
Growers, Inc.  
250 Crown Boulevard  
Timberlake, NC  
10:00 am**

## USDA Releases Prospective Plantings Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), prospective plantings report was released on Friday, March 31, 2006. The prospective plantings report lists that flue-cured tobacco plantings are expected to increase 15% over 2005. The following chart shows what NASS is reporting as its prospective 2006 flue-cured tobacco plantings.

From this report we see a large increase in tobacco acreage in all flue-cured tobacco producing states except Florida and Georgia.

	2005	2006	Percent of 2005
Flue-Cured	acres	acres	percent
FL	2,500	1,100	44
GA	16,000	16,000	100
NC	123,000	143,000	116
SC	20,000	22,000	110
VA	14,000	19,000	136
US	175,500	201,100	115

year is that a grower can expect an early infection rate of 15-20%, taking the risk is justified.

There are a few other factors for you to keep in mind.

1. The insecticide issue is complicated by some new formulations (and some new generics). In the past, we have recommended Admire 2F at 1.8 oz/1,000 plants for TSWV suppression. Bayer is now selling Admire Pro, a more concentrated formulation. The equivalent rate for this product is 0.8 oz/1,000 plants. We understand there will be a generic imidacloprid (Admire) available but have not seen

a label. We presume this will be basically the same formulation as the old Admire 2F. Fair Products, through an agreement with Syngenta, will be marketing a version of Platinum as T-Moxx. This is the same formulation as the Platinum with which you are familiar with but will be priced more competitively.

2. In our on-farm tests, Platinum used alone at 1.3 oz/1,000 plants has not been as effective as Admire 2F used alone at 1.8 oz/1,000 in suppressing TSWV. However, when used in combination with an Actigard treatment, Admire and Platinum have performed about the same in boosting

the impact of Actigard on the virus.

3. To be most effective against TSWV, Admire, Platinum, or the newer materials should be used in the greenhouse, not in the transplant water.

4. Although we can't predict yet when virus-transmitting thrips are likely to move, we can be certain that any weed management, herbicidal burn-down of fallow or no-till fields, etc. should happen NOW – or at least three weeks prior to transplanting tobacco in the area.

5. Timing transplanting to avoid thrips flights would be to a grower's advantage. However, we can't predict accurately enough at this time to give much useful advice.

6. The major TSWV outbreak in 2002 resulted at least partially from a major influx of western flower thrips moving on southerly winds. In most years, the resident tobacco thrips are the main culprit. If they should arrive at about transplanting time, it's possible we could see at least moderate levels of TSWV in non-traditional areas."

In **Virginia**, Dr. David Reed of Virginia Tech gave us his thoughts on TSWV for 2006. Dr. Reed said "that the TSWV in Virginia tobacco is primarily located east of the I-85 and I-95 corridor. He said that it is most prevalent in the traditional peanut growing areas."