

# Have no fear of flying

Studies by Ken Ostlie, professor and Extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota, show that air and ground applications provide equivalent control. "That's good news, because it means growers have access to more application equipment," Ostlie says.

Iowa growers know exactly what he means. "By the time we hit August 1, it was becoming an epidemic," says Jeff Ashland, agronomist at Great Lakes Cooperative in Superior, Iowa. "You could tell how aphids were moving – from the north to the south – by the way the spray orders were coming in."

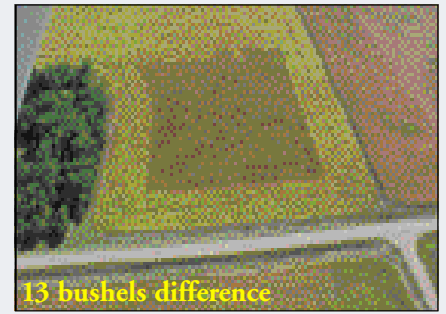
"We had every piece of ground equipment going and we had to get aerial applicators in here from as far away as Texas to help us spray." It was worth the effort. "The guys who sprayed saw

anywhere from a six- to a 15-bushel yield difference. And as dry as it was, the beans were under stress, so that probably made the yield differential even greater.

"In all, we custom-applied about 63,000 acres last year," he continues. "With an eight-bushel net gain after the cost of application and \$7.50 beans, we figure that put an extra \$3 to \$4 million in our growers' pockets. Those are big numbers, and it got everyone's attention."

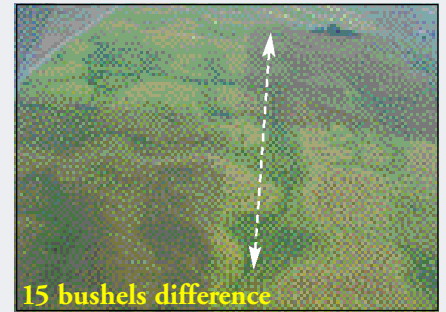
That's at a time when farmers don't particularly want to pay attention. Says Ashland: "Usually by the end of July, after you're done spraying beans for weeds, people are ready to stop worrying and go on vacation. When we called our growers to say, 'We're finding aphids and you should go check,' that's not something they wanted to hear. But they were glad we told them."

Photo A



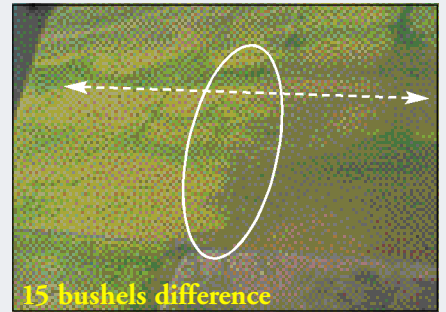
13 bushels difference

Photo B



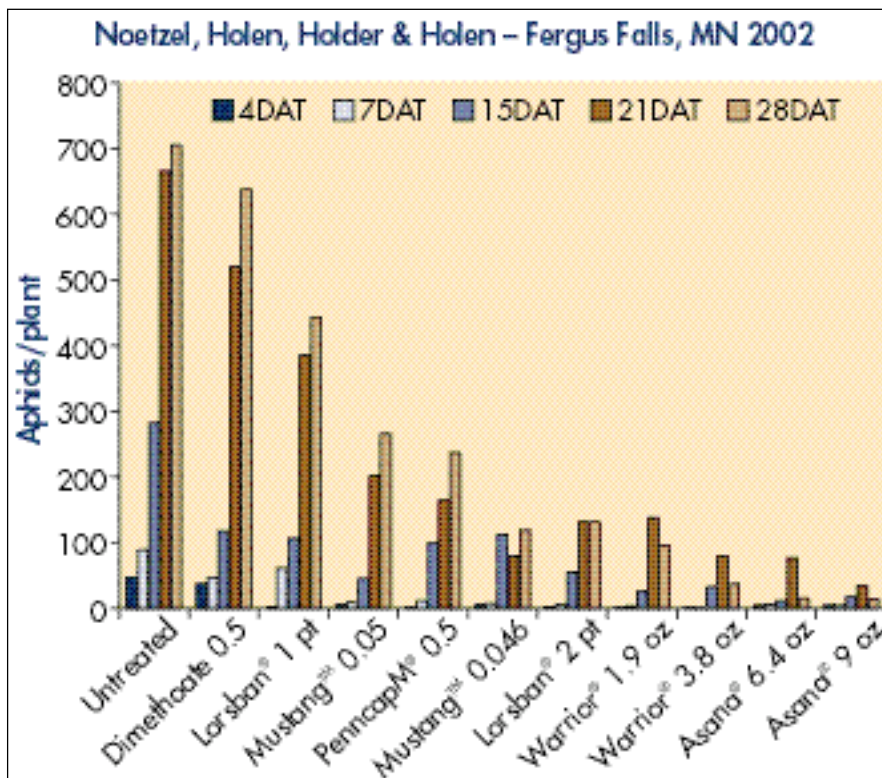
15 bushels difference

Photo C



15 bushels difference

Jeff Ashland, agronomist at Great Lakes Cooperative in Superior, Iowa, took these aerial images in 2003. Photo A: Field perimeter was sprayed for soybean aphid, but sprayer ran out before field was finished, leaving a check strip. Note the ground sprayer tracks. Photo B: These are one-mile rows, with the same variety planted straight through. Photo C: One-mile rows, with the same variety planted straight through. Note where the airplane turned off and on at the one-half mile line.



This trial data (left), from the University of Minnesota, shows how aphids responded to various insecticides – and how long the products kept aphid populations in check.

