


- Increased accessibility of real-time weather data.

Spatial and temporal variation need to be addressed together. The complex interactions that stand out in several of the studies reported in IPNI (2007) show that spatial variations in soil properties affect optimal N rates in a complex manner. It can be postulated that a highly site-specific approach to managing N will not be effective without an eye to the weather, and that attempts to make weather-specific recommendations will also fail if there is no eye to the soil and its spatial variability.

Managing crop N for weather requires site-specific approaches and flexible decision-making. These aspects are difficult to accommodate in regulatory approaches to nutrient management, and indeed are a limitation in nutrient management plans established on cycles of several years. While nutrient management plans have value in tactical planning, it is important that they allow flexibility in day-to-day implementation to suit changing weather conditions. Nutrient management must adapt more closely to changeable weather. Systems allowing producers to make data-driven decisions more rapidly may have advantages over regulatory approaches in improving the efficient use of N. 

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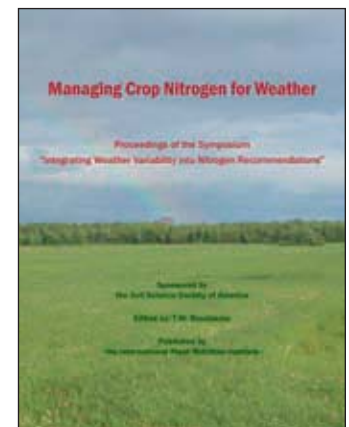
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Proceedings of the Symposium “Integrating Weather Variability into Nitrogen Recommendations”

The weather controls a great deal of the crop response to N. The contents of a new publication titled *Managing Crop Nitrogen for Weather*, based on the proceedings of a symposium at the 2006 meeting of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), provide details of experimental data and experiences of those engaged in efforts to improve prediction of crop N needs in response to weather conditions.

The papers contained in this new 132-page publication were originally presented at the Symposium “Integrating Weather Variability into Nitrogen Recommendations.” Thirteen of the original presentations from the Symposium are contained in the publication, plus abstracts of others. The authors are from several different countries and are recognized scientific authorities on their topics. The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) published the proceedings.

The publication is paper-bound, 8½ x 11 in., and contains some color. It is available for purchase from IPNI for US\$50.00 plus shipping/handling.



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