

Crops Bulletin

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Cool season – record corn crop? Cool growing seasons have typically produced some large corn crops. The 1994 and 2004 growing seasons are a couple of good examples. However, those two years were characterized by early planting dates, early emergence and above normal temperatures in June. That combination of conditions allows the corn to pollinate and begin grain fill earlier in the season. Then the cool conditions that followed in late July and August in 1994 and 2004 were ideal for grain fill. It is too early to be alarmed but extensive cool weather in June is not ideal for a high corn yield potential.

Scouring rush. Equisetum – a weed that is also called scouring rush, field horsetail, and snakegrass – causes concern this time of year. The vegetative stage resembles small Christmas trees and the reproductive stage is a hollow jointed stem. There are not many herbicide options for this weed. Permit and Hornet have some activity in corn. Bob Hartzler has an updated fact sheet that is available at <http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/mgmt/2009/equisetum.pdf>.

Growing degree days (GDD). Current GDDs are 43 behind normal for the May 1 to June 7 time period for NW Iowa. You can keep current on GDDs for Iowa by checking at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/060809pope.htm>

Common stalk borers. Crop damage from common stalk borers can occur near grassy areas of cornfields. Common stalk borers are expected to move from those grassy areas to corn on about June 17 – 19. Insecticides can be applied before they move to reduce crop damage. See <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/060209hodgsonpope.htm> for more info.

Some summer dates.

- June 26 – last day to register for the CCA test. See <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/>
- July 13-14 – Field Diagnostic Clinic, FEEL lab, ISU, Ames.
- July 15-16 – Crop Management Clinic, FEEL lab, ISU, Ames.

See <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/> for info on the above clinics