

CROP NOTES for May 6, 2009

Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/info/crops.htm>

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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WEATHER

Soil Temperatures

Currently, average soil temperatures are around 60 F.

Soil temperature readings are available at: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>

Degree Days for Corn in Northeast Iowa

May 1 through May 4 = 35 DD

April 20 through May 4 = 113 DD

April 10 through May 4 = 170 DD

In general, it takes about 125 DDs for corn emergence, however DDs are based on air temperatures. Wet soils warm more slowly, especially when there are cloudy days limiting solar warming. So this rule of thumb can be considerably off depending on environmental circumstances. Even so, mid-April planted corn fields that can't be rowed should be scouted for proper growth and development. As you check fields for emergence, this is also a good time to double check if you achieved your intended planting depth. Optimum planting depth is 1½ to 2 inches deep. The following article provides information and photos on plant growth and development relative to planting depth.

www.agronext.iastate.edu/corn/production/management/early/root.html

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

Elwynn Taylor says the Low in the Gulf of Alaska could dry out the Corn Belt, but he cannot yet tell if it will persist for weeks. The wet weather in the Ohio river valley is typical of a La Nina winter. Last year La Nina ended May 20, this year it may have ended May 4. That would be good.

PLANTING BY MID-MAY?

Corn

The more consistent rainy weather in parts of northeast Iowa may have some farmers starting to be concerned about delayed corn planting and potential yield reductions. Obviously, every year is different, but based on over 20 years of planting date trials at the Northeast ISU Research Farm, the long-term trends are:

- 1) Silk date is delayed 2 to 3 days for every one week delay in planting date.
- 2) Grain moisture is 1% wetter for every week delay in planting until mid-May.
- 3) Grain yields are similar for late April to mid-May planting dates.
- 4) Yields decline about 2 bushel per day from mid-May planting to late May planting.

The reasons to strive for “earlier” (late April) planting dates are to basically insure that silk date occurs earlier in the season to allow the corn plant to begin the grain filling process earlier (mid-July versus late July). This is favorable because soil moisture, air temperature and length of day are usually more favorable for corn when grain fill begins in mid-July as compared to late July or early August. Even so, as pointed out above, on average mid-May plantings often yield similar to earlier plantings in northeast Iowa.

Soybeans

According to Dr Pedersen, ISU Extension Soybean Production Specialist, the optimum time to plant soybean is the first week of May for the northern 1/3 of Iowa and the last week of April for the southern 2/3 of Iowa. A target day for producers is to get soybeans planted by May 15.

After that day, you start to lose yield potential every day no matter where you are in the state.

The yield loss depends on your yield potential. A higher yielding field loses more yield potential per day than a lower yielding field. In 2003, where the yields were low we saw on

average a yield loss of 0.25 bu/acre/day in Iowa. However, in 2004 and 2005 where the yields were higher the yield loss was closer to 0.40 to 0.80 bu/acre/day with some locations losing 0.90 bu/acre/day.

INSECTS

Alfalfa Weevil

Based on degree days it is time to start scouting for Alfalfa Weevil in Northeast Iowa. However, as of yet there are no reports of finding alfalfa weevil in either Iowa or Illinois. The following article from the ICM News has everything you need to know about scouting for the pest.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/041709pope.htm>

Black Cutworm

This week there was a significant catch of Black Cutworm moths in the Clayton County area. We will now begin to add up degree days (300 DD base 51 F) to predict time to start scouting for the presence of young larvae in corn fields. A recent article in the ICM News addresses Black Cutworm and includes scouting tips

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0428tollefson.htm> . Currently, 300 DD from the significant flight puts us at about May 15 to start to scout for Black Cutworm on emerged corn.

Bean Leaf Beetle

ISU uses a predictive model to estimate the percentage mortality of overwintering bean leaf beetle. This model is explained in a 2005 ICM News article at:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2000/5-1-2000/beetlewint.html> It uses accumulated daily average subfreezing temperatures (ADAST) from October 1 to April 15. The scale of Bean Leaf Beetle % Mortality relative to ADAST is:

% Mortality	ADAST
20	-89
30	-276
40	-464
50	-652
60	-840
70	-1,027
80	-1,215
90	-1,403

The 2008-2009 AAST for the Northeast ISU Research Farm near Nashua was approximately -1,700. January was cold! This number is off the scale which suggests a very high mortality of BLB and a very minimal population of BLB to affect emerging soybeans this spring.

WEEDS

Glyphosate Stewardship

From Micheal Owen, ISU Extension Weed Management Specialist. May 5, 2009 - The Iowa Soybean Association and Iowa State University Weed Science developed a glyphosate stewardship guide for Iowa Soybean producers. The stewardship guide is titled "Glyphosate

Stewardship - Fix it Before it Breaks". Given the dominance of glyphosate and glyphosate resistant soybeans (and corn), some weeds are evolving glyphosate resistance and becoming significant economic problems across the Midwest. While glyphosate resistant weeds are not yet a major problem in Iowa, there is evidence that if Iowa Soybean producers continue to manage weeds in the manner they have over the last 12 years, glyphosate resistant weeds will be a major problem in Iowa sooner than expected. The stewardship guide provides information about the weeds that are of concern, how to spot (likely) glyphosate resistant weeds in the fields, and what can be done to mitigate the problem. Data from Iowa ag chem dealers is also presented that supports the premise that problems with glyphosate and weed control are imminent in Iowa. This publication is available at:

<http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/mgmt/2009/Glyphostatewardship.pdf> If you would like hard copies of "Glyphosate Stewardship - Fix it Before it Breaks" contact the Iowa Soybean Association at 515-251-8640.

EVENTS

May 27, Pasture Walk Grazing Field Day, Eldorado

1:00 to 3:00 pm at the David Baker farm near Eldorado. One of a number of farmer lead grazing events in 2009 hosted by the Northeast Iowa Graziers. This program will highlight seasonal organic dairy with a discussion on transitioning a dairy to grazing. Directions: On Hwy 150, go either 4 miles south of Festina or 1.3 miles north of Eldorado to King Rd., then 1.1 miles to Kale Rd., then follow Kale Rd. to the end of the road. The entire 2009 Pasture Walk schedule is at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/229080A5-0FEE-44E7-86C0-C63F2E81654A/97997/2009PastureWalks.pdf>

June 10-11, 4-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference, Dubuque

For program and registration information, go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/46CA6FE6-29AC-4DFA-AB55-68AD3E46C9F0/100179/4StateDairyConferenceRegistrationinfomation.pdf>

June 12, Ag Professional Tour, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua

9:30 to Noon. Program details TBA. CCA credits available.

June 17, No-till Field Day, Decorah

Agenda and time still tentative, but likely to start at 11:00 am, include a free noon meal and conclude early afternoon. Speakers to include Farmer speakers to talk about their experiences with no-till, Mark Hanna ISU Extension Ag Engineer to talk about no-till equipment, a speaker to discuss economics of no-till, and Matt Helmers ISU Extension Ag Engineer to talk about no-till and water quality. Free CCA credits in Soil & Water available. Directions and other details to be provided soon.

June 17, Pasture Walk Grazing Field Day, Ridgeway

1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Jed Becker farm west of Ridgeway. One of a number of farmer lead grazing events in 2009 hosted by the Northeast Iowa Graziers. This program will highlight dairy grazing with Jersey-Holstein-Swedish Red crosses, with a discussion on cross-breeding lead by Dale Thoreson ISU Extension Dairy Specialist. Directions: On Hwy 9 to Ridgeway, one-half

mile southeast of Ridgeway is the Hwy 9 and 240th St. intersection. Take 240th St. west 4 miles to the farm at 3322-240th St. The entire 2009 Pasture Walk schedule is at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/229080A5-0FEE-44E7-86C0-C63F2E81654A/97997/2009PastureWalks.pdf>

June 18, Train-the-Trainer No-till Program, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua

9:00 to Noon. This program targets staff from NRCS, FSA, SWCD, DNR and related agency staff, plus Ag Providers. Free 3 CCA credits in Soil & Water available. Agenda includes: 1) Carbon Credits 2) Equipment Options/Implement Adjustments 3) Cover Crops to Reduce Nitrate Leaching 4) Residue Management and its Value to Soil Quality. The program is free but pre-registration is requested by contacting the Floyd Co Extension Office at 641-228-1453.

June 18, Northeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Nashua

1:30 to 4:30 pm. Also a poster session in the headquarters building from Noon to 1:30 pm for early arrivals. Field day speakers include (1) Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist, on Weather and Market Predictions for 2009, (2) Roger Elmore, ISU Extension Corn Production Specialist on Corn Production Issues, (3) Matt Helmers, ISU Extension Ag Engineer on Improving Water Quality with Biofilters and Cover Crops, (4) Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist on Insect Pests in 2009, and (5) Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent with Introductory Comments. The Field Day is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. CCA credits will be available for a nominal fee. Direct any questions about the field day to your County Extension Office, or George Cummins (641-228-1453) or Brian Lang (563-382-2949).

June 24, Southeast ISU Research Farm Field Day, Crawfordsville

Special morning session for CCAs followed by the annual afternoon research farm field day tour. More details to be posted soon at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetserc.html>

June 25, North ISU Research Farm Field Day, Kanawha

9:30 to Noon. The program will include presentations on Corn Production Issues, Insect Management in 2009, New Soybean Traits, and Current Crop Production Concerns. Additional information will be provided as plans are finalized. The Field Day is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. CCA credits will be available for a nominal fee. Direct any questions about the field day to your County Extension Office, or George Cummins 641-228-1453.

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