

For what it's worth...

Last week was the week to get corn planted. Its amazing how fast the corn crop can be planted when conditions are right. I'd guess those individuals in the western part of my area are nearly done, except for the gumbo river bottoms. Those to the east didn't get to utilize the full extent of the good days since rainfall had been heavier. Nonetheless they still made great progress and if they haven't already gotten back in after the showers on Friday and Saturday they likely will today. The two articles I've included below are most pertinent to those who feeling like they are falling behind and are thinking about other options.

I haven't heard too much about soybean planting yet other than some individuals in the Odebolt area that were thinking about planting soybeans last week. I don't know if those were just thoughts or if the thoughts came to fruition. I do know that I did some work at the ISU Western Research Farm near Castana last Wednesday. With the help of the farm staff we planted the first planting date of a soybean planting date population study. This study is to demonstrate the recommendation of Palle Pedersen, ISU soybean agronomist. Palle has been promoting planting soybean starting April 25 if soil conditions are fit and a population in the range of 125,000 to 140,000 seeds per acre. The hope with this seeding rate is to end up with a final population of greater than 100,000 plants per acre.

Planting Corn or Weed Control: Which Should Come First?

The question of the day, for those that have yet to get corn planted, is "what to do first, plant corn or control weeds?" Several university weed specialists are weighing in on this topic. Mike Owen, ISU weed specialist, says that corn can lose 1% yield potential per day once weeds come up. Mike prefers the approach of planting into a field with a preplant herbicide to keep competition at bay during corn emergence. University of Illinois weed specialist Aaron Hager recommends that first and foremost do whatever it takes, by whatever means, to plant into a weed-free environment.

Solely relying on a post emergence herbicide can be risky but does allow for advancing planting. If you must forego a preplant herbicide it is all the more important to get a pre-emerge rather than waiting for the post-emerge product timing. It's hard to predict the weather and combining that with weed growth rates makes timing a post-emerge application difficult. It is ideal to control weeds before they get to the 2-3 inch height.

Planting Corn or Applying Nitrogen: Which Should Come First?

While we don't want to rush planting, we don't need to delay it either. The most important day of a corn plants life is the day it is planted. What is different between a bad decision made on April 20th versus a bad decision made on May 7th? The answer is nothing. All three of this comments have been made in the last week by a university corn agronomist, a meteorologist and an industry corn agronomist, respectively.

Yes, they're all true. In an effort to get the corn planted without a delay one thing to consider is putting on the nitrogen as a post application. This does present some problems such as switching nitrogen types, smaller application window, product cost and potential hazards to the growing crops. A very good article on some things to consider when making this decision can be found in a May 4 posting to the [ICM News](#) titled "It's a Late Spring: Should You Apply Nitrogen or Plant Corn?"

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Webpage's to View:

- [Sensitive Crops Directory](#)
- [Iowa 4-Inch Soil Temperatures By County](#)
- [Corn Planting Guide](#)
- [Planter Tips](#)
- [CRP Options for Converting to Row Crops](#)
- [Soybean Factsheets](#)
- [Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide](#)
- [Calculate Corn Yield Loss Due to Uneven Emergence/Height](#)
- [Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [Farmland Values Increase](#)

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