

For what it's worth...

Green is the new color of the landscape. Corn and soybeans are emerging. Yes, I said soybeans. I have driven past several early planted soybean fields that have emerged and I've heard reports of others. For all practical purposes I'd put the corn planting in west central Iowa at complete. Sure there are some river bottoms that are still wet but even many of those got planted in the last couple days. The switch from corn to soybeans was rapid as most farmers wanted to take advantage of the good (not perfect in all areas) planting conditions. Soybean planting progress is over 50% complete and likely closer to 75% complete.

While everything appears rosy, unfortunately it is not. Many emerged corn fields are looking a little peeked and pale; even purple in a few cases. That's thanks to the cool, wet conditions during germination and cool evenings. In some cases where fields were not fit and sidewall smearing occurred there may be some purple or the pale color may persist a little longer. The only thing that really can be done is to hope for warmer weather (both daytime and nighttime temperatures) to help bring the corn around.

More on Black Cutworms

Projected dates of first cutting have been released. For west central Iowa this date is May 20th. Start scouting now by looking for evidence of leaf feeding. As the larvae get bigger they will start cutting plants. Cutting can continue until the 5th leaf stage.

The second bit about black cutworms relates to thresholds. With increased corn prices this has been examined a little. Currently, for larvae under 3/4-inch, treatment is warranted when 2 to 3 percent of the plants are cut. If larvae are over 1-inch then treatment is warranted when 5 percent of the plants are cut. However, a lower threshold of 1 percent cutting could be justified with higher corn prices but that 1 percent is well within normal stand variability. So, something less than 5 percent and more than 2 to 3 percent could easily be justified.

More information can be found in this [ICM News](#) article.

Insects and Late Planted Corn

- **Black Cutworms:** Fields that are tilled later in the spring and subsequently planted later are often prime targets for black cutworms because larvae can survive on weeds and the moths prefer to lay eggs in soybean stubble.
- **Wireworms:** Delayed planting along with cool, wet soils may result in greater densities of wireworms in the upper soil profile and subsequent feeding on corn seedling root systems.
- **Seedcorn Maggots:** Delayed planting along with cool, wet soils will increase the risk of injury to corn seedlings. Maggots can be more prevalent in fields with an abundance of decaying organic matter such as manure.
- **Corn Rootworms:** If corn planting were delayed to late May, some corn rootworm larvae would starve. And generally early planting in April tends to favor good establishment.

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Webpage's to View:

- [ICM News](#)
- [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](#)
- [Farmland Values Increase](#)

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