

For What It's Worth...

Last week was another nice week. That is if you missed out on the hail and high winds. The eastern 1/3 of my area has tough looking corn and across the area the soybeans are short. There is some anthracnose on the lower corn leaves but this won't cause yield loss at the stage most corn is at. Soybeans foliar diseases are now starting to appear in addition to the seedling blights and root rots.

Hail and Wind Damage

At this stage of corn growth hail damage can be severe with little yield damage but do note that larger hail may damage the growing point and/or cause wounds to the stalks. High winds that cause lodging are of minimal impact as long as the stalks have not snapped. A couple fields that I kept an eye on that lodged last Thursday were nearly completely straight by Saturday afternoon. The bottom line is don't let the emotion of hail and lodging combined with high prices cause too much personal stress. Be patient and let time pass before making assessments. A good article to refer to for corn hail damage is [Assessing Hail Injury in Corn](#).

Hail damage to soybeans can be extensive but part of that depends on how much damage and what growth stage. If the plant has not yet made it to the reproductive stages and nodes have not been damaged (i.e. hail damage was largely defoliation) yield loss will be limited. If hail damage was more severe and damaged nodes, broke stems and so on, one might need to wait four days and evaluate stand and damage. This type of damage will likely cause yield losses.

Soybean Foliar Diseases

If the soybean seedling diseases weren't enough, now you can add soybean foliar diseases to your list of things to scout for. Last week, I walked several fields with brown spot and bacterial blight. Both were common to identify and are showing up earlier than typical. Additionally, I've seen cercospora and have heard reports of sudden death syndrome. It will undoubtedly be an exciting and depressing year for soybean production.

The unfortunate part is that fungicides at this early stage are not beneficial and for some diseases, like sudden death syndrome, fungicides would never be effective. In talking with Alison Robertson, ISU plant pathologist, the best timing of soybean fungicides tends to be with a R3 growth stage application. She also notes that the soybeans should be scouted at the R1-R2 growth stage and if diseases are found to consider the variety susceptibility, current and future weather pattern and yield potential. From there it's a matter of doing the math and playing the odds.

A couple things to note...

- First, brown stem rot and sudden death syndrome are compounded by soybean cyst nematode pressure.
- Second, bacterial diseases don't respond to fungicides. As the term fungicide indicates only fungi would be affected by fungicides and even that's not all inclusive.
- Know the difference between preventative and curative fungicide products and decide which to you need.

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Serving; Calhoun,
Carroll, Crawford,
Greene, Ida,
Monona and
Sac counties.

Web pages to View:

- [Sensing Nitrogen Stress in Corn](#)
- [Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in IA](#)
- [Soybean Replant Decisions](#)
- [Corn Planting Guide](#)
- [Field Extension Education Laboratory](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [Sensitive Crops Directory](#)
- [Iowa 4-Inch Soil Temperatures By County](#)
- [Planter Tips](#)
- [Soybean Factsheets](#)
- [Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide](#)

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