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## Crop Update

Overall crop conditions look good in west central Iowa. Corn stands range from V4 to V7, but are mostly in the V5 to V6 stage. Soybean stands range from VC to V3, but are mostly V1 to V2. Corn fields are closing canopy, especially if they were planted in 20 inch or twin rows.

There are a few predicaments that have been stumbled across such as anhydrous burn to corn roots, uneven corn stands, and extremely weedy fields. On the bright side, insects have been a non-issue so far this year. Yes, there was some cutting from black cutworm and feeding from bean leaf beetles, but nothing major or widespread.

## Uneven Corn Stands

Uneven corn is somewhat common across west central Iowa and is especially noticeable in lighter soils with residue cover. In one field I scouted V6 corn right next to V4 corn and 12 inch corn right next to 6 inch corn. To confuse the matter I found three V5 plants that were 6, 8 and 12 inches tall. So, not only did we have variance in growth stage, but also shoot elongation.

So what happened? Here's my take on the situation. The corn was planted into ideal or nearly ideal conditions. Lack of moisture at emergence was not an issue. But as the surface soil dried up with below normal amounts of rainfall in May the plant was likely moisture limited at a critical time during nodal root formation.

Let's add salt to that wound. Some of the worse cases of uneven corn had two additional strikes against them; first was lighter soils and second was either no-till or high residue conditions. The light soils hold less available moisture while the residue effected planting performance. Most notable on planter performance was

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## ICM News Must Read Articles

Here are some links to the [ICM News](#) articles that I feel are must reads.

- [Weed Control in Roundup Ready® Cropping Systems](#)
- [Don't Let Potato Leafhoppers Burn Hay](#)
- [Soybean Rust Stirring in the South](#)

## Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo

Iowa State University and the Iowa Commercial Nutrient Applicators Association will present the 2009 Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo on July 22 at the Central Iowa Expo center in Boone, Iowa.

This expo is designed to provide a chance to discuss and compare manure-handling equipment, products and services and to provide educational opportunities for applicators and consultants. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors, view manure application equipment demonstrations, and to attend educational seminars and demonstrations.

The educational seminars include Managing Biosecurity on Swine Farms during Manure Removal, Hydrogen Sulfide Management during Manure Removal from Swine Deep Pits, Advances in Subsurface Application of Solid Manures, Iowa CAFO/AFO Regulation Update, Research Review of Solid and Liquid Manure Application on Frozen Ground, Managing Manure Application over Tile. The educational demonstrations will be related to drag hose safety and will include considerations for spill response, leak detection, and ruptured hose response.

General admission to the expo is free and parking is available on site for \$5 per car. Here's a link to the [Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo](#) website for more information.

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variability in seed depth placement. Some of the shortest corn both in height and growth stage had shallow seed depth, again hurting nodal root development.

The residue also created micro-environments for warmth and moisture. With residue cover there were cooler, wetter zones and without residue the zones were drier and warmer. And we all know what cool and wet does to plant development... it slows it down.

With moisture over the weekend and early this week in addition to predictions for warmer weather by weeks end, I would suspect that the plants will grow out of the unevenness with shorter plants elongating more to compensate for height as warmer weather becomes abundant.

It is too late to think about starting over, but one could expect a 5 to 25% yield hit. Of course, this would depend on how much delay there is between plants and how long the unevenness persists. For more information go to "[Yield Effects of Uneven Corn Height](#)" by Roger Elmore, ISU Corn Specialist.

### [Equisetum, Scouring Rush, Field Horsetail, or Snakegrass](#)

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, ISU weed specialist, wrote a good article on this titled "[Equisetum: Biology and Management.](#)"

This segment courtesy of Paul Kassel and Virgil Schmitt, ISU field agronomists.