

## Crop Happenings

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**GDD update.** Currently the growing degree day (GDD) accumulation is about 262 GDD units less than average in central Iowa, and 329 GDD units less in north central Iowa. Assuming an average accumulation of 20 GDD units daily, that would be roughly 13 days behind normal in central Iowa and 16.5 days behind normal in north central Iowa. Rich Pope and Dr. Elwynn Taylor have posted two excellent articles on the [ICM News](#) web page discussing GDD accumulation in several seasons. The way I read the graph, across the state we are 190 GDD units further behind than we were at this time last year. Expect corn to mature late and to be wet.

**Aphid spraying stops.** Treating for soybean aphids has all but stopped in our area. Most beans are at or beyond stage R5.5. After soybeans reach the R5.5 stage, the yield benefits substantially decrease. Last week a few farmers and agronomists were still wrestling with treatment decisions in light of the late fall, high aphid pressures, and the slow soybean development.

**Soybean diseases increase.** SDS has become serious in many fields in central and north central Iowa. The more poorly drained areas of fields are now showing sizeable areas where SDS is occurring at high levels. The only thing we can do is to note the areas and insure that SDS resistant varieties are planted in those areas in the future. White mold is also starting to appear in fields. The infestations are generally low in central/north central Iowa. I was in a field at the ISU research farm near Kanawha last week and noted that there was essentially no bacterial blight on the plants. Has anyone else noticed this?

**Hail areas re-visited.** Late last week I re-visited several fields north of Eldora. The first thing that I noted was that the corn was drying really fast. Tim Krausman, agronomist from Prairie Land Cooperative, told me that the silage tonnage was down. He also told me that ear rots and diseases were present in corn fields. He was right – I saw molds on ears. Corn stalk quality in the heaviest hail areas was very poor. Soybeans were actually re-growing from axils and had 4-6 inches of new growth. Agronomists and farmers from the Callender area report that they are seeing very similar things.

**ISU will do ear quality study.** Dr. Alison Robertson and Dr. Gary Munkvold want to look at ear quality from fields in the hail areas. They would like to have farmers/agronomists collect 25 ears from hail-damaged fields and record production information regarding each field. They are looking for a total of 100 fields across the state. If you are interested in participating, email me at [jdholmes@iastate.edu](mailto:jdholmes@iastate.edu) and I'll give you additional information.

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