



June 2, 2009
Issue 4

Serving
Dallas, Jasper,
Madison,
Marion, Polk,
Poweshiek
and Warren
counties

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Across The Fence

Crop Update: By May 31, over 95% of the corn and 90-95% of the soybeans have been planted in Iowa according to the Extension Field Agronomists. Growth stage in corn ranges from V8 in far western Iowa to V2 in NE Iowa. The welcome heat during the last half of May has caught up the accumulated growing degree days to nearly normal for this time of year in central Iowa, while southern Iowa lags by about 24 DD, and northern Iowa by about 30 DD behind normal.

Ammonia Injury: The wet soils at application and the extended cool temperatures through mid May might be giving rise to some "hot spots" in the corn. Sidewall compaction and shallow application contribute to a situation where ammonia seeps upward and into the rooting zone. If the ammonia becomes too concentrated, new roots desiccate and give the aboveground plant parts the appearance of drying out. Planting practices that place the seed directly over the ammonia application zone, such as with strip till, could exhibit more signs of injury. While injury is most commonly associated with spring applied anhydrous ammonia, injury has also been observed with fall applied ammonia and banded urea.



Dr. John Sawyer addresses the dynamics of ammonia injury in the article at the following link:

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/>

Seedlings showing the effect of root injury.

Insects: Corn fields should be checked for black cutworm activity. Smaller corn has more potential for damage as larger cutworms can chew through more plants when small than when plants are large. The link below is for a spreadsheet that allows the user to adjust for corn price, expected yield, and cost of control.

Dynamic Black Cutworm Action Threshold (5/27/2009)

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0527hodgson.htm>