

Crops Bulletin

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Seed treatment. There are concerns that the 2007 soybean seed crop has higher levels of seed borne disease, namely *Phomopsis* spp. infection. This seed borne infection leads to reduced rates of germination and also can result in damping-off in the field. Reduction in germination should be detected by lab seed tests. Seed treatments that contain Maxim (fludioxonil) can reduce damping-off in the field.

Black cutworm. It is expected that black cutworms will be large enough to damage corn about May 20 in north Iowa. This is based on the moth flights from late April and normal weather conditions between now and May 20.

Bean leaf beetle mortality. Levels of bean leaf beetles are expected to be low this spring. The combination of insecticide application for soybean aphid control and cold winter time temperatures has reduced the overwintering populations of bean leaf beetles. The level of overwintering bean leaf beetles was reduced by 95% as a result of the winter conditions.

However, the soybean fields that emerge first in an area may still be damaged by bean leaf beetle. Check early planted fields at emergence for potential bean leaf beetle damage.

Soybean planting. Extension Agronomist Palle Pedersen has research that shows a yield advantage to planting soybeans in early May in northern Iowa. The advantages have been:

- More main stem nodes.
- Potential for earlier flowering.
- Longer reproductive time period.

Pedersen's research has shown that an earlier planting date will benefit fields with a higher yield potential the most. Fields with higher yield potential would have a high CSR, favorable soil pH, good drainage, and low SCN levels.

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