

Crop Happenings

April 14, 2010
Issue 10-02



Prepared by
John Holmes,
Extension Field
Agronomist

*Serving Butler, Cerro
Gordo, Floyd,
Franklin, Grundy,
Hamilton, Hardin,
Humboldt, Mitchell,
Webster, Worth, and
Wright County*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Whoa! Where has the time gone? Issue 10-01 was dated Feb. 24th.

This one is mid-April. Clearly time has slipped away. The snow melted much faster than anyone ever expected and it looks like an early spring is underway. Many planters started to run late last week. Before that, we got the remaining standing corn harvested, tillage of corn stalks done, spring fertilizer applied, and seed in place. So – Are we going to have an early season and get corn planted fairly early? It's anybody's guess.

Is it time to plant corn? Yes. Lori Abendroth and Dr. Roger Elmore have updated the ISU planting recommendations and they say that farmers in our area should plant between April 12 and April 30. See the article in the ICM Newsletter. Obviously you will want to remember such things as [4" soil temperatures](#) and soil conditions as planting decisions are considered. The link to the soil temperatures is on the right side of the *Integrated Crop Management NEWS* web page. Current soil temperatures are in the low 50's.

Black cutworm traps in place. ISU continues to run a statewide black cutworm (BCW) trapping program. Traps were sent to cooperators in mid-March. The trapping information will be available to the public in the near future.

Current [Integrated Crop Management Newsletter](#) articles:

- [Survey of Corn Disease Management Practices](#)
- [Updated Planting Date Recommendations for Iowa](#)
- [Remember to Check Planter Settings](#)
- [Corn Nematodes and Soybean Cyst Nematode: Similar But Very Different](#)

Alfalfa seeding rates. Yes, there still is time to seed alfalfa and companion grasses. "[Selecting Forage Species](#)" (PM 1792) is my favorite resource for forage seeding questions. This piece suggests certain legumes and grasses for use as a hay crop, for silage, or for pasture. Seeding rates for straight alfalfa or for alfalfa/grass mixes are provided. BTW, the seeding rate for straight alfalfa remains 12-15 lb./acre of pure live seed.

Newsletter subscriptions. Thanks for responding to my request for newsletter subscriptions. Nearly 150 forms were returned. Thanks for helping us update the email list. I did attach the subscription form if you happened to miss it first time around.

Prepared by John Holmes, Extension Field Agronomist
Phone (515) 532-3453, Email: jdholmes@iastate.edu