

SW Iowa Crop Update- July 14, 2009

It seems in SW Iowa if we go a few days without rain we get a little nervous about having a drought! Having adequate moisture is essential for maximum crop production. Excessive moisture from a few rain events had a negative effect on a large area of both corn and soybeans this past week.

Lodged Corn

On Tuesday night parts of SW Iowa experienced strong winds that did considerable lodging to the corn. Wind is one of those natural phenomena I don't think I will ever understand. I stood looking at quite a few fields wondering how did these plants stand but the rest of the field is flat? I talked to one producer that told me his field was so flat he could see a rabbit run across it from the road. That is pretty darn flat! I revisited some fields later in the week and saw dramatic changes in the plants' orientation. Corn could be rowed again.

So you may be asking what does this do for pollination and/or yield potential. Two weeks ago I sent out a link to a website about goose necked corn and how yield is penalized. It is clear as mud, so to speak. There are wide ranges in yield response to lodged corn. In the fields I visited I saw three types of lodged corn: corn that was green snapped; corn lodged right at the soil line from inadequate root mass and too soft/moist soil; and, corn that seemed to be rooted down very well but the wind worked the stalk back and forth and made it feel very soft but yet didn't bend or break. This "soft stalk" corn has seemed to get back its rigidity and right itself very well so far. Again, here are the links to lodged and green snapped corn.

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/corn/production/management/mid/silking.html>

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1998/7-13-1998/greensnap.html>

Here are a few pictures taken Friday morning of corn that was completely flat on Wednesday morning.



Diseases

There are a few diseases that seem to be a little more prevalent in SW Iowa the past few weeks. Every soybean field I've been in has Brown Spot. A few fields have shown small amounts of bacterial blight and frogeye leaf spot. XB Yang has recently written an article on the ISU Crop News website.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0710yang.htm>

In the corn fields, common rust seems to be the disease that can be found very easily. Common rust is not as aggressive as Southern Rust but should be looked at. Gray leaf spot (GLS) is the other disease

that has started to infect a few of our SW Iowa fields. In the past week I have noticed more fields with GLS and it seems to be moving up the plant. GLS can be a yield robbing disease. Since certain hybrids will be more susceptible than others to GLS, be sure to check the disease susceptibility of the hybrids that are planted. UNL's Crop Watch website has a good article that came out Friday.

http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archives/2009/crop19/corn_grayleafspot.htm

This is a very good article talking about the life cycle, resistance, fungicide treatments and cost recovery.

Soybean Aphids

I hate being the bearer of bad news but I have been finding soybean aphids in fields for the past week. Don't worry yet as all of the fields have had very low populations. The fields I checked this morning had the highest populations -- 21 aphids on the plant. The average number I've been observing is in the 5-15 range. I highly recommend starting to scout each soybean field weekly and increase the frequency if numbers begin to reach the Action Threshold. The threshold is the same as last year -- 250 aphids/plant and on the rise. There will be areas where aphid pressure is greater, especially along the borders and close to woody areas.

Upcoming Events

The Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo is scheduled for July 22 at the Central Iowa Expo site between Ames and Boone. The theme of the expo, SET for Fall, will focus on safety, efficiency and technology. This expo will be a great opportunity to see many different kinds of liquid and dry manure application equipment. The expo will include educational sessions, exhibitors and 19 field demonstrations as well as a spill response demonstration. There is no fee to attend the expo; however, parking is \$5 per vehicle. A complete list of expo activities and maps can be accessed at: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

Now is the time to be in the fields scouting for diseases and insects.

If you have any reports of disease and aphids, please let me know.