

CROP UPDATE

By Virgil Schmitt, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

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Covering the Iowa counties of Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, and Scott.

June 3, 2013

CORN

Late Spring Soil Nitrate Test

With the heavy rains in some areas we have likely lost some nitrogen again this year. A good way to check the N status of the soil is to take one-foot depth soil samples when the corn is 6-12" tall. At least 16 soil cores (24 is better) should go into each sample and about a cup of this (soil bag full) sent to a lab for analysis. Cores should be pulled in a systematic way going across corn rows (i.e. first core pulled in the row, next one-1/8 the distance between rows, next 1/4 the distance between rows, etc.). For more information on the process see <http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/pm1714.pdf>. An information sheet for sending samples to ISU is at <http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/LSN.pdf>. The cost for analysis is \$5/sample.

Prevented Planting?

Crop Insurance and Prevented Planting

Article by Kristen Schulte, Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu

Heavy rainfall, floods and cool temperatures across the Midwest have slowed planting this spring. The final planting date for corn in Iowa is May 31. The final planting date for soybeans in Iowa is June 15. Final planting dates and other crop insurance information can be found at www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/mn_rso/.

Prevented planting is a failure to plant an insured crop with the proper equipment by the final planting date designated in the insurance policy's actuarial documents or during the late planting period, if applicable, due to an insured cause of loss that is general to the surrounding area and that prevents other producers from planting acreage with similar characteristics. More information can be found on the Prevented Planting fact sheet at www.rma.usda.gov/fields/mn_rso/2013/2013preventedplanting.pdf.

Here are some basic guidelines if you are unable to plant because of an insurable cause of loss by the final planting date. You may:

- Plant during the 25-day late planting period. For most crops, the timely planted production guarantee is reduced one percent per day for each day planting is delayed after the final planting date.
- Plant after the late planting period. The insurance guarantee will be the same as the insurance guarantee provided for prevented planting coverage.
- Not plant a crop and receive a prevented planting payment.
- Plant a cover crop and receive a prevented planting payment.
- After the late planting period ends, plant the acreage to another crop (second crop) and receive a reduced prevented planting payment.

The most important thing you can do if you are unable to plant the crop by the final planting date is contact your crop insurance agent to review your policy and options before you make a decision. You are required to provide notice that you were prevented from planting an insured crop within 72 hours after the final planting date.

For more information, see the ICM News article by Steve Johnson and William Edwards at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2013/0528sdjohnson.htm>.

Stalk Borers on the Move

According to Growing Degree Day accumulations, base 41, stalk borers are starting to move from grassy areas into nearby corn fields south of Highway 34, and areas along and north of Highway 34 will be experiencing this in the not-to-distant future. I was south of Highway 34 over the week end and noted dead grass heads, as shown in the picture on the next page.

Information on scouting and management can be found at the ICM News article at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2013/0603hodgson.htm>.

Local Growing Degree Day accumulations are shown at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/stalkborer.html>.

You can get an early “heads up” of the size of potential movement of stalk borers into corn by examining the grass for dead heads; the vast majority of dead heads will have been killed by stalk borers who are outgrowing the grass plant and moving into nearby corn. The more dead heads you find, the more stalk borers may be poised to move into corn.



Smooth brome grass head killed by a stalk borer.



Stalk borer hole in the stem of smooth brome grass. (Courtesy of Tom Hillyer)



Stalk borer still in the smooth brome grass stem but about ready to head for corn. (Courtesy of Tom Hillyer)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Cover Crops Field Day – Coe College - Cedar Rapids June 6, 2013, 9:00 a.m to 3:30 p.m.

Free program, lunch and transportation to field demonstrations are on your own. Topics include designing cover crop mixes, cover crop management systems, soil function demonstrations, and field demonstrations. Learn how diverse cover crop mixes can boost your soil health from Ohio Farmer Dave Brandt and NRCS Agronomist Ray Archuleta. For more information, contact Rick Bednarek, 515-284-4135.

Muscatine Island (horticulture) Research and Demonstration Farm, Fruitland Spring Field Day June 18, 2013, 5:30 p.m. Tour and Field Day

- **Tour**
- **Meal**
- **Business Meeting**

There will be a \$10.00 per person charge for the meal. The \$10.00 will also include a full membership in the Association, including the Melon Club.

Details are posted at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetmusc.html>.

ISU NE Research & Demonstration Farm, Nashua Spring Field Day June 26, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

Topics include:

- **2013 seasonal weather and trials on the research farm** - Ken Pecinovsky, ISU Research Farm Superintendent
- **Corn growth and development from the planting date trials and expectations on pollination** - Roger Elmore, Corn Production Specialist
- **Crop and soil fertility issues from the drought in 2012 to the late start in 2013** - John Sawyer, Soil Fertility Specialist (Bring your questions on nitrogen management, sulfur and micronutrient recommendations, and others.)
- **Weed control challenges in 2013 and weed resistance management** - Bob Hartzler, Weed Management Specialist
- **Plant diseases found in 2013, scouting for problems, timing of fungicide applications, and stewardship of fungicide use** - Daren Mueller, Plant Pathologist

Details are posted at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetnerf.html>.

SE Iowa Research Farm – Crawfordsville
Spring Field Day
June 27, 2013, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Note: Lunch (Including home-made ice cream) will be available at noon at a cost of \$5.00. To reserve a meal, please send a note to Jim Fawcett (fawcett@iastate.edu) or call the Johnson County extension office (319-337-2145) by June 25.

Topics include:

- **Crop Season Review** - Myron Rees, Farm Superintendent
- **Crop Weather Outlook & How New Weather Stations Will Benefit Iowa Farmers** - Virgil Schmitt, ISU Extension Field Agronomist
- **Managing Nitrogen in Corn After a Rye Cover Crop** - John Sawyer, ISU Extension Agronomist – Soil Fertility; and
- **Managing Glyphosate Tolerant Waterhemp in Soybeans** - Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension Field Agronomist.

Special Session for CCAs – 9:00 a.m. -noon

Certified Crop Advisors can receive 5 hours of credit, including 3 hours of soil and water management, by attending a Special Session for CCAs from 9:00 a.m. to noon followed by the spring field day tour.

Topics in the morning include:

- **Cover Crops – What Are Your Goals?** - Mark Carlton, ISU Extension Field Agronomist;
- **What You Should Know About Corn Suitability Rating 2** - Lee Burras, ISU Agronomy Professor; and
- **How Can We Meet the Nitrogen Goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy?** - John Sawyer, ISU Extension Agronomist – Soil Fertility

Pre-Registration is **required** for the CCA session (\$50 fee, including lunch). To pre-register by June 25, please send Jim Fawcett an e-mail note (fawcett@iastate.edu) or call the Johnson County extension office (319-337-2145). The \$50 fee can be paid at the door (cash or check).

Other details are posted at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops/meetserc.html>.