



7/22/16
Crop Update

[Corn](#) [Soybean](#) [Forage](#) [Wheat](#)

Corn:

Corn development, for most acres, is dough (R4) to beginning dent (R5). At R5, the kernels begin to dent and the milk line forms, moving down the kernel. There are some replanted acres that are in earlier stages. On irrigated acres, irrigation should continue to supplement water needs through $\frac{3}{4}$ milk line, especially on soils with low water holding capacity and/or under high evapotranspiration (hot/dry)

periods.

During corn pollination, hot and dry conditions can lead to poor “nick” or synchronization of pollen and silks. Under dry conditions silks, which require high turgor (water pressure) to grow, may not make it out of the husk or may be delayed which reduces the potential to be receptive to pollen shed. The cool, wet spring which quickly lead into a hot, dry June increased some stress that you may see in some early maturity fields. Pictured is an example of poor pollination from a field this year. More information on pollination can be found in MU’s IPM article [Corn Pollination](#).

The primary corn disease that is present currently is gray leaf spot. Continue to monitor late planted fields for gray leaf spot. Another disease to continue to monitor in those late developing fields is southern rust. More information on corn diseases can be found in the IPM Guide, [Corn Diseases](#).

[Back to top](#)

Soybean:

Soybean development is from vegetative stages to early pod development. Information on soybean stages of development is available from [Iowa State’s Soybean Growth and Development](#) publication.



Some leaf feeding from green clover worm, bean leaf beetle and Japanese beetle is currently occurring. Soybean reproductive stages R3 (3/16 inch pod on one of the upper 4 developed nodes) through R5 (flat pod/beginning seed development in upper 4 nodes) is a critical period for defoliation. Treatment is warranted during reproductive stages when average leaf area losses reach 20%. For a visual of defoliation refer to [Iowa State’s Defoliation Estimation Sheet](#). I have also seen green stink bug, a pod feeder,

sporadically through fields. Continue to monitor as pod development continues for pod feeders, such as stink bug, podworm (corn earworm) and bean leaf beetle. More information on identifying these pests can be found in [Mississippi State's Soybean Insect ID Guide](#). Information on insect pest control options can found in the [Missouri Pest Management Guide](#).

Septoria brown spot can be found in the lower canopy currently. This is a common foliar disease that typically stays in the lower canopy and generally does not contribute to yield loss. Another disease I have observed is bacterial blight. Infection occurs through stomata and wounds caused by hail or rainstorms with high wind. Lesions start out as small reddish brown spots with a yellow halo. Centers of older lesions typically fall out causing leaf tattering (picture). High temperatures slow or stop disease development and yield loss is generally not associated with this disease. More information on soybean diseases can be found in [Missouri's IPM guide](#).

[Back to top](#)

Forage:

Forage specialist, Craig Roberts, in an article published today, urged livestock producers to move cattle to non-toxic grass and off of toxic Kentucky 31 fescue. The full article, "July rains on toxic tall-fescue pasture add heat stress to cows," can be found on the [Cattle Network](#).

July rain was much needed to relieve some major stress on row crops. However, with that relief came a flush of growth of fescue. Typically, cool season grass is dormant by July and cattle are moved to alternative areas such as warm season grass sources. Lush regrowth may be tempting to leave cattle on, however, toxic Kentucky 31 fescue grazed in July with the addition of July heat only compounds heat stress and decreases gains. Toxic fescue produces ergovaline which constricts blood flow. Be alert to the symptoms: cattle stop eating, seek shade and stand in ponds to try to cool down.

The best plan for the future is to begin replacing toxic KY 31 fields with a novel-endophyte fescue variety.

Wheat:

Wheat yield data is available from [MU Variety Testing](#).

[Back to top](#)

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