

Crop Update
9/1/16

[Corn Kernel Sprouting](#) [Kudzu Bug](#)

Ear and Kernel Issues

Relatively dry kernels on upright ears followed by an extreme rainfall event during warm weather can cause premature sprouting. Premature kernel sprouting is usually limited to the base of the ear where water is trapped in upright ears or the tips (pictured). As kernels reach physiological maturity (black layer) the plant hormone, abscisic acid, responsible for inhibiting germination during the maturation process decreases as corn progresses through dry-down. The amount of sprouting I have seen and received calls about is limited, however, under severe cases grain quality can be reduced. Timely harvest and drying grain quickly are



recommended to prevent further growth in fields where sprouting is consistent through the field. More information is available in articles: "[Premature Corn Kernel Sprouting](#)" and "[Wet Weather Can Cause Seeds To Sprout before Harvest.](#)"

With above normal rainfall, you may find various stalk or ear rots this season caused by pathogens such as Diplodia or Gibberella. More information on particular stalk and ear rots can be found in [MU IPM Guide 1001: "Corn Diseases."](#)

Soybean Pests

Monday, Mike Milam, Agronomy Specialist in Dunklin County, found kudzu bug on kudzu in northern Dunklin county. This is the first report of this invasive pest in SE Missouri. Kudzu bug, once established in an area, can migrate to soybean fields with areas located nearest to kudzu being highest risk. In Tennessee, this migration has been in July, preferentially but not exclusive to flowering soybeans. Kudzu bug is a sap feeder, not a pod feeder with a threshold of 25 nymphs per (immature kudzu bugs) per 25 sweeps. Dr. Scott Stewart's [UT Crops July newsletter](#) provides Information on kudzu bug management. This time of year kudzu bug migration into soybean is not a threat.

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