

Corn Stands and Planting Progress

There are many fields with excellent corn stands. Now is the time to measure populations to determine your current stand population and compare this to your seeding rate. This will help you determine your population currently and begin watching for any additional stand loss.

Growers should be on the watch for soil insects. Several fields that I was in last week had increased white grub activity. The temperatures are warming and so are the soil insects becoming more active.

If you have any problem, please identify the cause so if a replant is needed, you know how to prevent the problem from reoccurring. White grubs and wireworms should have insecticide applied during planting to control these pests. They are in the soil so a rescue insecticide treatment is of little value.

Corn continues to grow slowly with low temperatures and many wet fields are awaiting planting. There will be a point in time that one will need to push the wet soil conditions to get corn into the ground. There are risks with this aggressive approach. But after May 20th, we will have increasing yield losses due to planting delays. Every growing season is different.

Some corn has been replanted from saturated wet soils causing plant death. The loss of corn plants was from oxygen starvation. The lack of oxygen slows growth and weakens plants allowing for plant diseases to attack the seedlings.

Also, even water did not stand on some fields for a long enough time to cause damage, the saturated soil conditions often delays emergence.

For more information, contact Wayne Flanary at 660-446-3724 or Heather Benedict at 660-425-6434, University of Missouri Extension Agronomists.