

**PENNSYLVANIA
MASTER
CORN GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**



Between The Rows

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In the midseason, excessive moisture was the problem for many fields. Some fields in the southcentral part of the state were saturated much of the time in June and July. This resulted in some stunted and yellow corn.

We would expect that corn growing in flooded or saturated conditions might eventually suffer from lack of oxygen in

the root zone, root and crown diseases, and N loss from the soil due to both leaching and denitrification.

Many times corn in areas that are saturated will not come back and not yield well. This year, growers and dealers have told me that many of these fields turned green in August and looked fairly good. In a few of these fields that I examined, ear development was less than



Soil crusting caused by planting into wet soils followed by hot May temperatures resulted in some deformed seedlings such as this.

ideal even though the crop looked good from the road.

Fields that responded the best appeared to be those that followed alfalfa or were manured heavily. Corn following corn and corn following wheat with borderline N fertility programs had more of a tendency to not green up as well.

We would expect these responses based on the potential for the mineralization of organic N from these fields.

Later in the season, crop maturity and leaf diseases took center stage on the crop. This year much of the crop seemed to silk on time but the grain fill period seemed to be lengthened somewhat by the lack of high temperatures in August.

In general, cool temperatures are good for avoiding high temperature stress in the crop and improving grain fill, but not for speeding along crop maturity. As a result, most of the crop was a bit later than normal but on the whole matured well enough to avoid much effect of frost on grain quality.

In some of the short season areas and where corn was planted late, though, there will be some immature corn that gets killed by frost.

Leaf diseases were a constant threat throughout the season and many of us were concerned even in late July with all of the foggy mornings that we had about severe disease outbreaks. Late in the season, gray leaf spot became severe in some areas, but for the most part the disease developed above the ear after the corn was dented, so the effects on yield should be generally small. Effects on standability of this later season epidemic may be



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significant so some preharvest scouting is warranted.

Even with the challenges that occurred during the season for some fields, overall the crop benefited from the ample precipitation throughout the season. Many of the well-drained and traditionally droughty soils have exceptional crops this year, which will make up for some of the problems that were encountered.

This year, producers who

had a corn management programs that have the ability to produce under a variety of conditions will benefit the most from the good season we had. Key components of this year's program would be: 1) being prepared and equipped to plant as early as possible, 2) having a N fertility program that was on target for the situation, and 3) selecting a hybrid that had good disease resistance and high yield potential.

**100 Million Bushels
For New Uses**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Development Foundation and the National Corn Growers Association possesses an aggressive research and marketing strategy to find the most cost effective methods of discovering new uses for corn.

"We evaluate projects based on the overall potential for commercial and technical success, the potential impact on corn usage, the length of time to commercialization, and overall total cost," said NCDF President Everett Nordine, a farmer from Albert City, Iowa.

Russ Williams, chairman of NCGA's research and commercialization committee and Leaf River, Ill., farmer, said each one of the organization's projects have the potential to use more than 100 million bushels of corn each year.

NCGA/NCDF's research projects:

- Commercialize 100-percent biodegradable plastics using polylactic acid from corn.

- Catalytic conversion of glucose from corn to make certain polyols that are used as anti-freeze, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

- Identify a more cost efficient process of making butanol from corn. Manufacturers use butanol in such things as lacquers and brake fluid. Butanol is largely produced now from petroleum.

- Reduce the cost of ethanol by converting corn fiber to ethanol.

- Seek \$162 million from the federal government for five to 10 years to identify the genes of corn. With this information, solutions may be found to long-standing constraints on the corn industry, such as second generation corn borer, corn rootworm, and grain quality at harvest.

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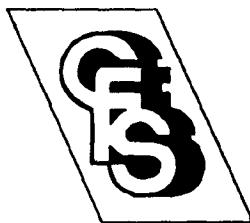
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