

Blunt Ear Syndrome Found In Area Corn Fields

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The corn ears look large in area fields but our observations can be deceiving. Some area fields have corn plants with large shucks but hidden below is a reduced cob with little grain and in worst cases, no grain. This is known as Blunt Ear Syndrome (BES) and the cause of the problem has never been completely identified. Often we have found BES with late applications of herbicides but it is also found when such herbicide families have not been applied. Also, some theorize that it is a cold temperature shock when the ear size determination is made injuring the ear in development. Again, we are not completely sure of

what causes the problem.

The corn ear is usually normal at the base of the cob then the cob abruptly ends. It may have a small ear tip visible at the end of the cob. Stalks may turn purple.

Most of the symptoms present this year are the ear shucks look tapered exhibiting that the shucks do not contain a full ear. Also, there is not much silk exposed at the ear tip.

Most everyone has been talking about the loss of nitrogen causing our corn fields to turn yellow but we should take a closer look at our fields so we can better estimate our potential yield this harvest.

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