

# Control Of Insects, Weeds Will Be Crucial For 2008

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**T**his has definitely been a frustrating spring. It is not often that you finish planting full-season beans a couple of days before the double-crop beans need to be planted.

Now is the time to start scouting those fields for weeds and insects. Insect trap catches have been very high so there may be problems on the forefront. Since the crop is so late, many of the insects will now be there when the crop is most vulnerable. The other thing to remember is that the University of Illinois Extension guidelines for damage are based on crop prices like \$2.30 corn or \$5 soybeans. Now that crop prices are double or triple that amount, it takes much less damage before it is cost effective to control them.

Weed control is the same way. Research has shown that yield losses start when the crop is small, and often, the crop will never fully re-

cover. Southern Illinois University research has shown that not controlling weeds in small corn can result in yield losses of 28 to 49 bushels per acre. That adds up fast when corn is over \$6 per bushel. It will pay to check those fields and make sure the excessive rainfall hasn't ruined your weed control program.

Changing subjects, I was in an airport the other day and a businessman sat down next to me complaining about how corn and ethanol were destroying the U.S. economy. He knew it was a fact since it was on TV. So, I gave him a 10-minute briefing on the real facts of how ethanol was saving him 40 cents per gallon on fuel prices, that corn prices have only increased food prices by pennies, and that transportation, labor and fuel prices are the driving factors behind drastic price increases. The man asked a few more questions and was hopefully better informed when he left. It is amazing how many people have this mind set and do not know the facts. Δ

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