

Pioneer Talks Crops

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We have received rainfall in some areas recently in the upper mid-south this year but several areas still remain dry. The warmer temperatures still have us 200 growing degree units ahead of the 30 year average since an April 1

planting date. Most if not all of the corn has polinated and is grain filling. Early planted soybeans are nearing the R3 growth stage and double-crop soybeans are still in vegetative stages.

Nitrogen deficiency has been showing up in several irrigated corn fields lately. This is mostly due to high amounts of irrigation or in some situations we have not been able to access the N in dry middles or dry areas of the field. Nitrogen deficiency is expressed at the bottom of the plant and usually looks like the plant is "firing up". To check for Nitrogen deficiency inspect the leaves on the bottom of the plant and check for yellowing that runs along the mid-rib and extends out towards the end of the leaf. The yellowing will look like a "V" pattern in the leaf

pointing towards the stalk. The severity of the deficiency will be determined by how many leaves at the bottom of the plant are expressing the yellow color. If 3 or more leaves are showing Nitrogen deficiency prior to the dent stage then the severity level may be yield limiting.

Some dry weather diseases may show up in double crop soybean fields. The two most common soybean diseases that show up when the weather turns hot and dry are Rhizoctonia Root Rot and Charcoal Rot. These two diseases are favored by heat and drought conditions and are more likely to occur if the crop is under any additional stress such as herbicide injury, cyst pressure, or insect feeding. Rhizoctonia Root Rot will show up as a lesion close to the soil line and will be characterized by a brick red color. Charcoal rot will show up initially

as a darkening of the vascular tissue in the root and then later as irregular dark lines in the pith and stem of the plant. These diseases can result in plant death and stand loss depending upon the severity levels. Be sure to keep a watch for fields that may need to be replanted if stand loss exceeds 25 percent of the desired stand. Δ

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