

Pioneer Talks Crops

Welcome to Pioneer Talks Crops. This information is provided by the Pioneer agronomist serving your community.

GREG PFEFFER



DEXTER, MO.

Climatologists have recently reported that the spring of 2012 in the upper mid-South has been the driest and warmest since records have been kept in the late 1800s. I think anyone in the farming industry would definitely agree this has been

a tough spring in most areas. It is early June as I write this article, but it almost seems like mid-July with the kind of season we have had so far. We have had challenges in achieving soybean stands and dealing with insects.

Later-planted soybean fields have had a difficult time emerging. The most common issue has been lack of soil moisture. Intense heat and lack of rainfall have left many without any mois-

ture for soybeans to emerge, and the stands in some areas have been spotty at best. However, some spotty showers have caused issues in other areas. Typically, fields receiving a hard-packing rain within 48 hours of planting are at more risk to be replanted due to diseases or crusting. These hard-packing rains compact the soil surface making it difficult for the hypocotyls to straighten and break through. After several days of trying to break through, hypocotyls swell and eventually break. It is critical to assess the whole field when trying to decide

whether to replant regardless of the situation. Some areas of the field may be worse than others. Uniformity is a critical criterion in this decision. A fairly uniform stand can be lower in population than a stand that is not uniform, yet higher in population. The University of Missouri Corn and Soybean Replant Decision Guide states that uniform soybean stands will maintain nearly full yield potential at 80,000 plants per acre and above.

Japanese beetles are emerging earlier this year. I have received several calls about Japanese beetles already, and they are beginning to feed on corn and soybeans in some areas. Japanese beetles rarely need to be treated in corn before silking, but once silks begin to emerge it may be necessary to spray to ensure

pollination. If there are three or more beetles per ear, the silks clipped to less than one-half inch, and the field is less than 50 percent pollinated,

then treatment may be needed. Be sure to look at representative areas of the field to make a good decision. Soybeans may need to be scouted more thoroughly. Generally, soybeans will need to be treated if leaf feeding has caused 30 percent defoliation before bloom or 20 percent defoliation after bloom through pod set. Be sure to use a labeled insecticide for treatment.

△

GREG PFEFFER: Agronomist for Pioneer, Dexter, Missouri



PIONEER.
A DUPONT COMPANY