

# Pioneer Talks Crops

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Fieldwork was at a near standstill in early June due to heavy rains across most of Missouri, according to the USDA. While many areas were impacted, there were reports of flooding throughout the northwest district. Bates, St. Clair and Vernon counties reported a hail storm that severely damaged corn and wheat. Statewide, topsoil moisture rates were more than 95 percent adequate or at a surplus. Spring tillage was 78 percent complete, 23 days behind last year and more than a month behind normal.

Soybean replants have been a recent topic in the mid-South lately. Hard-packing rains and high rainfall totals have caused issues in some areas. Typically, fields that have received this kind of treatment from Mother Nature within 48 hours of planting are at more risk to be replanted. 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, the hypocotyls swell and eventually break.

It is critical to assess the whole field when trying to decide whether to replant. Some areas of the field may be worse than others. Uniformity is a critical criteria 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.

Corn nematode has been a significant issue in some areas of southeast Missouri this year as well. Corn nematode can affect plants at a very early age and typically is present in sandier soil types. It is a big yield-robbing pest and can cause significant yield losses. Growers should look for

stunted plants showing multiple nutrient deficiencies with clubbed roots, brown root tips or bottle-brushed root systems. Purple leaves may indicate phosphorus deficiency, and leaves with yellowing

around the leaf margins may indicate potassium deficiency. These deficiencies show up due to root restriction caused by the corn nematode. It may be necessary to send in a root sample to confirm nematodes in a field.

Several growers in southeast Missouri have cornfields with stand loss due to early seedling blight. Seedling blight is caused by fungal pathogens early in plant development. This disease is favored by cool, wet weather and can be worse in lower areas of the field. Growers can dig up suspected plants and check the mesocotyl for brown, water-soaked tissue. Some plants may survive this disease but may be stunted. △

