

Pioneer Talks Crops

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This has been one of the most challenging years in southeast Missouri. Record floods in most of the Mississippi River Delta have been received like no one in this generation has ever seen. Most of the planted corn crop did not handle the long period of cool and wet weather. Over 50 percent of the corn crop that was planted in southeast Missouri was lost due to hail, flood, seedling diseases or a combination of these. Corn replants are high but weather patterns are beginning to return to near-normal conditions for this time of year. Growers are planting several crops at once and are looking forward to the end of the planting season. Growers will need to consider careful management of late-planted corn to achieve good results.

Late-planted corn requires careful management compared to corn planted at a normal planting date. Stressors tend to have a greater impact on yield than they normally would because they impact the crop earlier in its life cycle. Also, corn will progress more rapidly than normal, so the windows for herbicide application, fertilizer application and irrigation timing will be much shorter than corn planted timely. Follow these management tips to maximize yield potential on late-planted corn.

Irrigate early and often. Corn planted late will have to endure more heat and drought stress compared to early-planted corn. The crop will require as much as 2.5 to 3 inches of irrigation during pollination. It may be wise to irrigate on a three-day schedule during this time and consider watering every row, instead of every other row.

Scout for insects regularly on refuge acres. Insect pressure will be greater on late-planted

corn. Refuge acres may require a timely insecticide application to control insects such as corn borer or corn earworm. DuPont™ Coragen® would be an excellent product for control of these late-season insects. Coragen® provides extended control for better results.

Consider pretassel N applications for N losses that may have occurred during the wet months of April and May. As much as 30 to 50 percent of the preplant N may have been lost during this time. It may be wise to apply 100 pounds of urea to provide an additional 46 units of N by airplane if fields are too wet for ground application. Be sure to time this about two weeks before tassel or at about head-tall corn for best results.

Consider fungicide applications on late-planted corn for greater plant health and disease control. Late-planted corn tends to be more susceptible to disease pressure. The crop will still be grain filling when temperatures begin to get closer for optimum disease development.



The best timing for fungicide applications on corn is from tassel to brown silk.

Harvest timely or even early, if possible. Late-planted corn grows more rapidly, so the internodes will be longer than normal, resulting in a taller plant. The stalk diameter may be slightly smaller as well. Therefore, late-season standability may suffer. It would be wise to consider grain drying the late-planted crop to get it out of the field.

These management suggestions should help growers achieve optimum results on their late-planted corn acres. Δ

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