

Soggy Field Conditions May Put A Damper On Planting

NK Seeds agronomist offers insights for Missouri growers deciding whether to plant corn-on-corn or rotate to soybeans

MISSOURI

Hheavy winter snows and continued early spring precipitation could be challenges for Missouri farmers looking to get in the field.

“In much of Missouri, we’re seeing very wet fields, which may delay planting or increase disease pressure on seeds and seedlings,” Kool says. “If conditions remain moist and cold, some growers may switch out acres planned for corn and plant soybeans instead.”

Generally, corn needs to be in the ground by late April for best results in Missouri, while producers usually begin planting soybeans in mid-May. So, weather could be a deciding factor in the number of corn acres planted this year.

The area could see planters rolling as soon as early April, but Kool encourages growers to consider several factors before planting, such as:

- Moisture level
- Soil temperature
- Seeding rate and depth
- Fertility
- Seed treatment

While planting early can improve yields, Kool urges growers to not be too eager, as proper planting conditions are crucial for both crops.

“It is important to check moisture levels through the soil profile as the surface may appear to be dry, but the soil is wet underneath. Working soil that is wet underneath can cause below-ground compaction and limited root development. In addition, growers should monitor soil temperatures, particularly in continuous corn where the additional residue can cause cooler, wetter conditions that delay seed germination.”

Growers should always choose hybrids and varieties with characteristics to fit their individual needs. For example, NK Seeds offers a broad portfolio of products with a range of agronomic packages for productivity in diverse conditions. Plus, growers should consider seed treatments to provide added early season protection, especially in damp conditions.

NOTE: Kool can address a wide range of agronomic topics, including but not limited to:

- Planting date recommendations
- Pest reports from harvest 2007 and an outlook for 2008
- Nitrogen management in corn
- Integrated management in soybeans and corn

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