



April 28th, 2025

Seed in the Ground

NW IA Dealer Agronomy Update

There have been a few occasions of cooler rains over the last 10 days. We know how this can be detrimental, especially to corn planted 24 – 48 hours before a cool rain. Still a little early to tell, but for the corn that went in the ground last Wednesday, April 23rd, we did have good soil temperatures so the first moisture the seed imbibed should have been relatively warm, assuming it was planted into a seedbed that wasn't bone dry. Progress continues to look decent on what's in the ground to date.

One point – over the years, there is actual data showing poorer emergence and potentially poorer yields coming back into planting after a wet spell. The tendency is to push it too early. **Keep this in mind as you recommend to your growers to be patient as we work around showers and fields drying out,**



DKC114-43 planted on 4/9 in Boone County. This picture is from 4/23 – last Wednesday. According to the Emergence Risk Forecast tool, this field should have emerged the next day with just over 120 GDUs accumulated since planting. Looks close – maybe just a day or two later to emergence than the tool predicted. Impressive radicle and lateral seminal root growth for 14 days in the ground.



A little farther north, in Clay County, this shot of DKC105-33 planted on 4/14 shows good radicle growth and the lateral seminal root just getting started. Picture taken on 4/25 at which point there had been 76 GDUs accumulated. The Emergence Risk Forecast Tool is predicting a 5/1 emergence for this field, assuming the forecast of some warmer weather holds true.



On the soybean side, these 4/13 planted AG14XF4s showed good germination and early growth as of last Friday – 12 days in the ground.

Emergence Risk Forecast Tool

An internal Bayer Crop Science tool we have for our use is the Emergence Risk Forecast tool. This tool allows us to predict length of corn emergence timing from different planting dates and locations based on the factors listed below. Predictions from a 4/28 planting date are putting corn emergence at 10 days across NW Iowa.

Source

RH (Recent Historical) What actually happened this day.

HF (Historical Forecast) Forecast for previous three days.

TWCF (TWC Forecast) 13-day TWC forecast.

LTF (Long Term Forecast) 10 year historical averages.

Emergence Estimates

Daily weather station data is utilized to calculate the corn base 50° F daily GDU calculation using this formula: (daily maximum air temperature °F + daily minimum air temperature °F)/2 minus 50° = Growing Degree Units/Days (GDU or GDD). Base = 50°F, max = 86°F. Corn estimates assume a planting depth of 2". Soil temperature is a model estimate from TWC at 2" depth.

Location	Planting Date	Est. Emergence Date	Days to Emergence	Risk Level
 Bancroft	4/28/2025	May 8, 2025	10	Low Risk (0-10)
 Fort Dodge	4/28/2025	May 8, 2025	10	Low Risk (0-10)
 Rock Rapids	4/28/2025	May 8, 2025	10	Low Risk (0-10)
 LeMars	4/28/2025	May 8, 2025	10	Low Risk (0-10)



The following report is using multiple planting dates from a single (Storm Lake) location. It shows a low to medium risk levels for the next 11 days, with emergence predicted in 9 - 11 days, which is very positive.

Emergence Estimates

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Location	Planting Date	Est. Emergence Date	Days to Emergence	Risk Level
Storm Lake	4/28/2025	May 9, 2025	11	Medium Risk (11-17)
Storm Lake	5/2/2025	May 11, 2025	9	Low Risk (0-10)
Storm Lake	5/5/2025	May 15, 2025	10	Low Risk (0-10)
Storm Lake	5/9/2025	May 20, 2025	11	Medium Risk (11-17)

Corn is Emerging - Can I Still Get Fertilizer and Herbicide Applied?

The short answer is yes – but you need to be careful with herbicide selection and may have to live with some Nitrogen burn. Below are comments from Technical Development Representative Adam Stiegel. His advice is “if foliar damage is acceptable, “fines” are within label recommendations”.

“FINE”

- **Balance Flexx**
 - “Sprayable fluid fertilizer as a herbicide carrier for early postemergence applications in corn can typically cause corn injury up to and including tissue burn (necrosis). Sprayable fluid fertilizer as a carrier is not advised for use with BALANCE FLEXX herbicide after crop emergence unless typical fertilizer burn symptoms on the crop are acceptable.”
- **Capreno**
 - “Postemergence applications of CAPRENO Herbicide should be made in water as the carrier. Sprayable fluid fertilizer as a herbicide carrier for postemergence applications in corn can typically cause corn injury up to and including tissue burn (necrosis). Sprayable fluid fertilizer as a carrier is not recommended for use with CAPRENO Herbicide after crop emergence unless typical fertilizer burn symptoms on the crop are acceptable.”
- **Trivolt**
 - “Early postemergence applications of TRIVOLT HERBICIDE must be made in water as the carrier. Sprayable fluid fertilizer as an herbicide carrier for early postemergence applications in corn can typically cause corn injury up to and including tissue burn (necrosis). Sprayable fluid fertilizer as a carrier is not advised for use with TRIVOLT HERBICIDE after crop emergence unless typical fertilizer burn symptoms on the crop are acceptable.”
 - NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE AN ADJUVANT if they opt to use liquid fertilizer as the main carrier volume.



“NOT FINE”

- **Harness Max**
 - POST use specifically states on the label “with a volume of 10-30 Gal water per acre”
 - I then dug into the straight goods Callisto label to verify - “Apply in a spray volume of 10-30 gal/A using water as a carrier.”
- **Harness**
 - “DO NOT make postemergence surface applications using sprayable fluid fertilizer as the carrier because severe crop injury may occur”
- **Harness Xtra**
 - “DO NOT make postemergence surface applications using sprayable fluid fertilizer as the carrier because severe crop injury may occur”
- **Diflexx**
 - “DO NOT use sprayable fluid fertilizer as the carrier for application of DIFLEXX Herbicide made after corn emergence.”
- **Acuron**
 - “Do not apply early postemergence to corn in liquid fertilizer or severe crop injury may occur”
- **Resicore**
 - “Do not apply postemergence to field corn with liquid fertilizer as the carrier or severe crop injury may occur”

Please always read and follow label directions.

Looking forward – below are guidelines for timing of Bayer Crop Science pre-emerge and post-emerge herbicides on corn. Green is a go, Red is a no.

	Pre	VE	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10
TriVolt												
Corvus												
Balance Flexx												
Tripleflex						11"						
Harness						11"						
Harness Xtra 5.6						11"						
Harness Xtra						11"						
Degree Xtra						11"						
Harness Max						11"						
Capreno												
DiFlex Duo												
Roundup PowerMax3										30"		
Warrant										30"		
Laudis												
DiFlexx												



While we enjoy warm southern winds to give us a nice spring day, it means the potential is there for BCW larvae pressure. Moth trapping has begun across the states thanks to Iowa State University but cutting likely won't take place until Mid-May.

SmartStax Pro, SmartStax, Trecepta, and the new VT4P hybrids are protected from BCW cutting. VT2P, RR or CONV hybrids are not.

P500 levels of seed treatment helps but will not provide control of BCW larvae. Scout emerged corn for cutting. Early planting and bigger corn are a lower risk for cutting but still need to be scouted. **Typical threshold is 3% of plants cut when cutworms are less than ¾ inch and 5% when larger than ¾ inch.**

Higher risk fields include:

- Green fields, especially from either weeds or cover crops
- Low lying, poorly drained areas
- Later planted or later worked fields

[illegible]

Figure 1. Black cutworm moth captures from April 20 – 26, 2025. The bigger and bolded number indicates the total moth count for the week (for counties with multiple sites, only the site with the highest weekly moth count is reported). The smaller number in parenthesis represents the season-long total of black cutworm moth captures in that county. Data is current as of April 26, 2025.



You can track BCW moth movements in multiple states by following these links

- [Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin via Corn ipmPIPE](#)
- [University of Minnesota](#)
- [University of Missouri](#)
- [University of Nebraska - Lincoln](#)

A Slimy Situation – Slugs in Iowa Field Crops



Gray garden slugs found in field with soybean damage. Odebolt, IA. Picture Josh Blair

It may sound strange but calls about slugs damaging young soybeans have been on the rise in the last few years.

Slugs are a family of gastropods that do not have a shell. They are plant eating pests that feed at night who love cool and damp conditions. Activity is highest when temps are below 70°F and with higher humidity (they prefer 100% humidity). Highest populations of slugs are seen in a wet spring that has followed a mild winter.

Slugs prefer high residue environments such as reduced till, no-till, and cover crop acres. This can make finding them difficult. Injury can occur in corn or soybeans and includes scarifying of plant tissues, holes in leaf tissues, and holes in soybean cotyledons.



Gray garden slug feeding on soybean cotyledons. Picture Nick Sloff, Pennsylvania State University

There is no in-season economic threshold for slugs because young corn and soybean plants can withstand 40% and 50% defoliation, respectively. Some fields may see stand reductions occurring, but replant considerations should be evaluated based on surviving population, extra inputs, labor, and weather forecasts.

Management for slugs includes

- Shallow disking to reduce residue (high pressure) or using row cleaners to remove residue from seedlings and help with faster emergence (low pressure)
- Making sure seed slots have closed behind the planter
- Promoting crop vigor to outpace slug development. This may include but not limited to - planting later into warm and drier soils, the use of pop-up fertilizers, selecting hybrids and varieties with strong vigor scores
- Treat with products containing Metaldehyde – Deadline MP (mini-pellets) is one such product or Ferric Phosphate



Additional Resources:

2025 Planting Guide

Benefits and Risks of an Early-planted Soybean Crop

Soil Temperature Future Cast – <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/agclimate/soilt.php>

Also check the LIVE soil temperatures for a few locations around the state:
<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/agclimate/#soil04t>