



August 11th, 2025

NW IA Dealer Agronomy Update

Pollination Progression

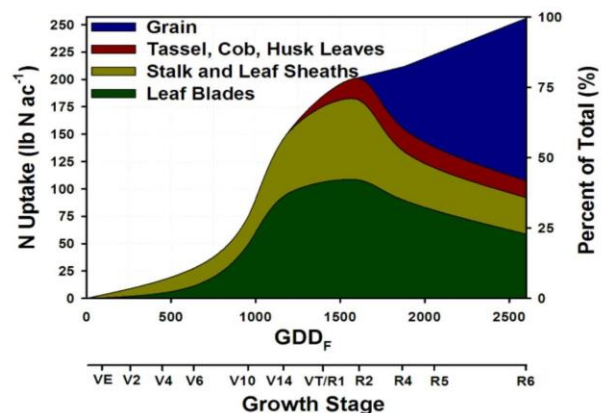
Pollination has been a big topic in the last several weeks. With most areas having generally ideal conditions for pollination to occur, there still have been scattered issues with missed nick of the tassel and silk emergence timing. Some of this can be due to excessive wet conditions as silks have emerged, thereby causing silks to not be as receptive as normal to pollen. There have also been issues with some genetic families of tassel wrapping also disrupting the timing and causing pollination to be less than ideal.



Another characteristic that shows most every year after pollination – even with almost ideal weather – is tipping back of the ear. This can be very much controlled by genetics as some hybrids are pre-disposed to showing 1 - 2” of cob at the end of the ear. This can show no matter what population, fertility program and yield environment a hybrid is in. It is most noticeable at the R3 – R4 stages as the cob still has a very high % of water content. As the cob dries out and shrinks down, then the tipping back is not as noticeable.

Late Season Nitrogen in Corn – Uptake, Loss, & Stalk Cannibalization

As corn moves past pollination and into the milk (R3) and dough (R4) stages, the plant's focus shifts almost entirely to filling kernels. During these reproductive stages, the ear becomes the primary “sink” for nutrients, particularly nitrogen (N). While most nitrogen uptake occurs prior to tasseling, the crop still has significant late-season demand, and how well we meet it can make the difference between hitting full yield potential or falling short. Post-pollination nitrogen demand from silking through R4, the corn plant continues to require nitrogen to support photosynthesis and kernel development. Research shows that roughly 25%-30% of the total nitrogen required for a corn crop is still in play after pollination.





The Cannibalization Process

If soil nitrogen is insufficient late in the season, the corn plant begins reallocating internal resources - a process often called “cannibalization.” Nitrogen is mobile within the plant, so the stalks, leaves, and even roots will give up stored N to feed the developing kernels. While this protects yield in the short term, it comes with trade-offs:

- **Stalk strength declines**, increasing lodging risk.
- **Leaf senescence accelerates**, reducing photosynthetic capacity.
- **Root reserves deplete**, leaving the plant more susceptible to disease and stress.

Essentially, the plant sacrifices its own structure to ensure the ear gets priority nutrition. This is why N deficiency symptoms (yellowing and firing of lower leaves) often become more visible after pollination, even if the crop looked healthy earlier in the season.

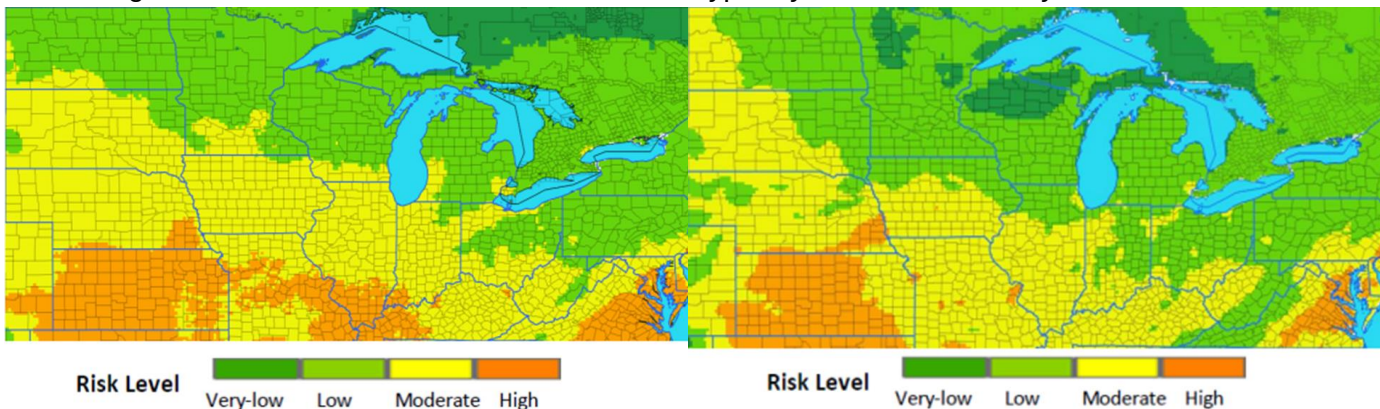
Added Concern in 2025: Record-Wet July

This year many areas experienced the wettest July on record. Excessive rainfall increases the risk of nitrogen leaching and denitrification, moving nitrate deeper in the soil profile and potentially beyond the root zone. In some fields, this means late-season nitrogen shortages may show up sooner and more severe than in a normal year.

Corn is relentless in its drive to fill the ear, even at the expense of its own health. In a year like this, with unprecedented July rainfall and a high potential for nitrogen to have moved below the root zone, keeping an eye on this corn crop is critical. **Monitoring stalk integrity late in the season for standability will be crucial** to ensure both yield and harvest efficiency are protected.

2025 Southern Rust Progression

After a heavy season of Southern Rust in 2024, many comments were made around the fact that we may never see it again that heavy in Northern Iowa, knowing that the disease does not overwinter here. Well, here we are in 2025 with apparently ideal conditions for this disease to be blown in from the south and appear once again. In most areas, the disease progression has not quite equaled that of 2024, but we still have several weeks to go before we are safe from Southern Rust - typically around R5 or early dent.



Southern Rust risk levels – August 6th, 2025 on the left and July 28th, 2024 on the right



Goss' Wilt

This bacterial foliar disease has made its appearance again this year. Many areas have experienced hail and wind that has allowed the bacteria to enter the plant through a physical opening. Seeing Goss' Wilt in early August means the potential for it to spread and cause early plant death is there. Monitor fields with history of Goss' Wilt as well as fields that have had physical damage this summer. The appearance of other fungal diseases can weaken the corn plant as well, making the effects from Goss' Wilt even more severe. Early harvest for standability concerns will be one thing to keep in mind for fields that end up with high levels of infestations.



Early lesion of Goss's Wilt showing on the upper canopy. The water-soaked appearance of the lesion and necrotic area as you move towards the stalk is always a characteristic of Goss's Wilt.

New Product Spotlight – Convintró® Brand Herbicide

- Convintró, with the active ingredient, Diflufenican is designed to be a new tool for the farmer to control Amaranthus species in Corn & Soy and is **currently in the registration process**
- Excellent activity on Waterhemp and Palmer Amaranth weed species
- Group 12 Phytoene Desaturase (PDS) inhibitor
- Use as a pre-plant or pre-emerge herbicide
- On track to be registered and have limited availability for the 2026 growing season



Growing Degree Units

GDU accumulation continues to be running ahead for all the planting dates listed below. The table below shows the GDU accumulation from **April 11th – August 9th**, **April 23rd – August 9th** and **May 5th – August 9th** at different locations in Northwest and Central Iowa. These GDUs can be found on the following website – plug in your location and planting dates for GDUs specific to you. [MRCC](https://mrcc.purdue.edu/tools/corngdd).

Location	4/11/25 to 8/9/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	2013	1918
Bancroft	1952	1847
Le Mars	2085	1987
Fort Dodge	2010	1929
Denison	2114	1992
Ames	2194	1954

Location	4/23/25 to 8/9/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	1915	1851
Bancroft	1868	1786
Le Mars	1981	1913
Fort Dodge	1921	1860
Denison	2016	1919
Ames	2107	1882

Location	5/5/25 to 8/9/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	1814	1759
Bancroft	1779	1700
Le Mars	1881	1813
Fort Dodge	1825	1767
Denison	1911	1822
Ames	1994	1786

Additional Resources:

Track + submit progression of key diseases like Tar Spot and Southern Rust <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/>

Get alerts for insect migration and emergence with <https://www.insectforecast.com/>

Track GDUs <https://mrcc.purdue.edu/tools/corngdd>



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/// FieldView Support:

/// [888-924-7475](tel:888-924-7475) /// [Knowledge Center](#) /// [YouTube](#) /// [Twitter](#)

See the disease risk maps that are provided by a 3rd party exclusively for Bayer Crop Science.

[Corn Disease Risk Maps](#)

[Soybean Disease Risk Maps](#)

Picture of the Week



Great looking FTN plot in Cherokee County – like many fields showing lightly scattered greensnap from multiple storms this year