



August 25th, 2025

WC IA Dealer Agronomy Update

Scout Now: Stalk & Crown Quality at Risk this Harvest Season

As harvest approaches, it's critical to get out in fields and evaluate stalk integrity. This season has set us up for potential stalk and crown issues: heavy rainfall, nitrogen loss, and significant disease pressure have all increased the likelihood of lodging and premature plant death. Scouting now and creating a harvest priority list will be key to protecting yield.

Heavy Rainfall & Nitrogen Loss

Excess rain has been a common theme this year. While it helped fuel a big crop, it also increased the risk of nitrogen loss through leaching and denitrification. Late-season nitrogen shortages force the plant to cannibalize stalk and crown tissues to fill the ear. This weakens structural integrity and makes plants more vulnerable to lodging.

Foliar Disease Pressure

Southern rust and northern corn leaf blight are widespread. By reducing green leaf area, these diseases cut photosynthetic capacity and force the plant to draw stored carbohydrates out of the stalk and crown. The result is hollow, weakened tissue that breaks down quickly.

High Yield Potential

This year's crop is carrying tremendous ear load. The ear is a strong nutrient sink, and in many fields, the plant will sacrifice stalk and crown reserves to finish grain fill. This "hidden stress" is why fields that look outstanding aboveground may still fail integrity tests belowground.

How to Assess Stalk Quality

- **The Pinch Test:** Pinch the lower stalk internodes (just above the brace roots) between thumb and forefinger. Stalks that crush easily under light pressure are at risk.
- **The Push Test:** Push stalks 8–12 inches off vertical at ear height, then release. If the stalk bends or breaks instead of returning upright, it is compromised.

Check at least 20 plants across several parts of the field. If 10–15% or more fail, the field should be marked for early harvest.

How to Assess Crown Quality

Crown rot often develops from stress, disease, or nutrient loss, and can be just as damaging as stalk rot. Even if the stalk feels solid, a compromised crown can lead to sudden plant death or lodging.

Field Indicators: Plants with premature death, poor grain fill, or ears dropping early may signal crown issues.

Crown Assessment: Split the stalk lengthwise down into the crown (just below soil level). A healthy crown should be white and firm. Brown, discolored, or rotted tissue indicates crown rot.



Harvest Risk: Plants with crown rot often appear healthy until they collapse suddenly. Prioritize these fields early in harvest.

Action Steps for Growers

- **Scout now** using both stalk and crown checks.
- **Prioritize fields** where 10–15% or more of plants fail integrity tests.
- **Monitor hybrids** for continued disease development and hidden stress.

This crop has outstanding yield potential, but wet weather, disease, and nutrient loss have set up real risks for both stalk and crown integrity. Harvest success will come down to smart planning: scout fields carefully, rank them by risk, and prioritize harvest order to protect bushels before lodging and breakdown occur.



Identification of Stalk Rots

Anthracnose Top Dieback Prevalent in Corn Fields

We are seeing widespread cases of *anthracnose top dieback* showing up across the area this season. This disease infects corn plants late in the season and is most easily recognized by the premature death of the upper canopy. Plants often appear to be “firing” from the top down, with the upper leaves turning yellow, then brown, while the lower canopy is still green.



Anthracnose Stalk Rot - Plants will have shredded pith and die prematurely. Anthracnose causes blackening of the stalk rind. Initially these start as smaller lesions that will turn very dark and can form large blotches or streaks.

Diplodia Stalk Rot - Identification of this disease is characterized by small black dots around the lower nodes of infected stalks. Overwinters in corn residue therefore corn on corn fields are at a high risk of diplodia. This stalk rot commonly occurs around mid-to late ear fill and is favored by warm wet weather after silking.





Gibberella Stalk Rot – Affected plants have shredded pith that is discolored and will have a pink or red hue. Warm wet weather conditions post silking favor this disease development.

New Corn Disease Identified in Iowa

Some of you may have seen Iowa State issue a notice that on August 14, 2025, *Curvularia* leaf spot has been observed in field trials and demonstration sites in Central Iowa. The disease is characterized by

- Tiny circular-to-oval lesions, measuring between 1/8" and 1/4" in diameter
- Lesions are primarily found in the mid- and upper canopy of the corn plants.
- The lesions feature a whitish center, bordered by a dark-green, water-soaked margin that eventually turns orange-brown with a yellow halo.

Symptoms of *Curvularia* leaf spot can resemble those of eye spot.

- Eye spot typically occurs in cooler, wetter conditions earlier in the growing season.
- In contrast, *Curvularia* leaf spot is more prevalent during hot and humid weather, especially following rain during the reproductive maturity stage of corn.

Curvularia leaf spot is caused by the fungus *Curvularia lunata*, which was first officially reported in the United States in 2017. Since then, it has been documented in several states, including Mississippi, Louisiana, and Kentucky. It is recognized as a significant issue in corn production in China but its impact here in the US is still unknown.

The disease tends to be more common in fields where corn follows corn, as the fungus can survive in corn residue over the winter. Differences in hybrid susceptibility have been observed, and management practices such as crop rotation and tillage can help reduce the survival of the fungus.

- **Management Practices:**

- Variability in hybrid susceptibility has been noted.
- Crop rotation and tillage are effective in reducing the survival of the fungus.
- Currently, there are no foliar fungicides labeled for the management of *Curvularia* leaf spot.



Understanding Physiological Maturity in Soybeans

The onset of soybean maturation is a critical phase in the growth cycle of soybean plants. Environmental factors such as temperature, sunlight, and moisture levels play a significant role in determining the timing of full maturity. Understanding the signs of maturation is essential for effective management practices and ensuring a successful harvest.

	Stage Of Growth	Description	Approximate Days to Beginning Maturity
R5	Beginning of seed enlargement	At least one pod containing small seed is present at one of the top 4 nodes with fully developed leaves	29
R6	End of seed enlargement	At least one pod whose cavities are completely filled with green seeds is present at one of the top 4 full developed nodes. To determine this, hold a pod up to the bright sky to look for open space. Seed growth slows after R6 but does not quit.	18
R6.5	Leaves begin to yellow	Rapid yellowing of leaves begins in the lower canopy and progresses upwards	10
R7	Beginning maturity	When 50% (or all) of the field plants possess one mature pod, meaning it has attained its final mature color. Can be present anywhere on the main stem.	0
R8	Full Maturity	occurs when 95% of pods have attained maturity and have a variety-dependent color of brown or tan.	

Preparing for Harvest with Climate FIELDVIEW

Collecting data with Climate FIELDVIEW is a great tool for understanding product performance and ROI for an operation. Here are some highlights of how to start the fall off correctly with CFV!

- **iPad Software (iOS)**
 - Apple will release iOS 26 this fall (normally September)
 - **DO NOT UPDATE iPad software (stay on iOS 18.6.1)**
 - **RECOMMEND Turn OFF automatic software updates!!!**
- **Cab App Software**
 - 14.2.0
- **Black App Software**
 - 9.2 (current version)



- 9.3 (coming SOON)
- **Drive 2.0 Users**
 - Update firmware when prompted in Cab App!
 - John Deere Combines (xx60, xx70, S Series, X Series) + Drive2.0 - Adapter Cable #CC1157K needed from AgExpress

MY26 Discounts



- Customers purchasing through a dealer will receive a **15% discount** on the subscription price
 - Stackable with both Bayer Plus and Drive 2.0 Discounts (While Active)
 - Eligible on ALL tiers for NEW and RENEWING customers
 - Automatically Applied at Checkout!
- Drive 2.0's Purchased will receive **10% off for our 10th anniversary!**
 - With a Plus or Premium subscription, simply add a Drive 2.0 to your cart and this discount will automatically be applied at checkout.
 - There is no limit on the number of Drive 2.0s that can be ordered, as long as the promotion is active
 - Promotion ends 12/31/20

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 24th**, **April 23rd – August 24th** and **May 5th – August 24th** 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](#).



Location	4/11/25 to 8/24/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	2378	2243
Bancroft	2239	2227
Le Mars	2424	2363
Fort Dodge	2446	2317
Denison	2538	2357
Ames	2682	2424

Location	4/23/25 to 8/24/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	2286	2173
Bancroft	2158	2160
Le Mars	2325	2204
Fort Dodge	2361	2241
Denison	2438	2277
Ames	2572	2337

Location	5/5/25 to 8/24/25	30 Year Average
Rock Rapids	2187	2079
Bancroft	2076	2064
Le Mars	2226	2109
Fort Dodge	2264	2141
Denison	2314	2175
Ames	2441	2225

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/cornqdd>

Sign up to receive Bayer Crop Science Agronomic Updates



/// FieldView Support:

/// 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

