

More Thoughts on Southern Indiana Delayed Corn Planting

R.L. (Bob) Nielsen
Agronomy Dept., Purdue Univ.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054
Email: rnielsen@purdue.edu

Increasingly aggravating rainfall throughout southern Indiana continues to interfere with the completion of corn and soybean planting. As of June 1, the Indiana Ag. Statistics Service reported that only 51% of the intended corn acres and 22% of the intended soybean acres had been planted in the southern crop reporting districts of Indiana.

Corn growers are particularly frustrated with the delayed planting situation. Last week I indicated that one small bit of good news is that southern Indiana corn growers can avoid drastic changes to hybrid maturities for quite some time due to that area's longer growing season and corn's ability to adjust its heat unit requirements with delayed planting (Nielsen, 2003).

Listed here again are the safe hybrid maturities for two planting periods:

* Safe hybrid maturities for planting in southern Indiana through June 10

Southwest: Fuller season maturity than most plant anyway

Southcentral: Hybrid maturities from 115 to 118 CRM (Pioneer[®] brand rating)

Southeast: Hybrid maturities from 116 to 119 CRM

* Safe hybrid maturities for planting in southern Indiana through June 20

Southwest: Hybrid maturities from 117 to 120 CRM

Southcentral: Hybrid maturities from 109 to 112 CRM

Southeast: Hybrid maturities from 110 to 113 CRM

While a switch to significantly earlier hybrid maturities is not physiologically warranted for a couple more weeks, growers may nonetheless want to consider switching to earlier maturities to reduce their potential grain drying costs in the fall. Long-term plot data from Pioneer Hi-Bred International (Iragavarapu, 2003) indicates that the yield potential for late, medium, and early maturity hybrids becomes very similar as planting is delayed beyond June 10 in the central U.S. Corn Belt. Grain moisture differences at harvest, on the other hand, remain similar among the hybrid maturities, if not more dramatic, as planting is delayed.

Final Note of Caution: Growers who elect to switch to earlier maturity hybrids for mid-to late June plantings in southern Indiana must also remember to select hybrids with acceptable disease tolerance because of the greater risk of leaf diseases with late-planted corn (Vincelli, 2003). This is especially true if you are considering maturities unusually early, and therefore agronomically unadapted, for your location.

Related References:

- Indiana Ag. Statistics Service. 2003 (June 2). **Indiana Crop & Weather Report.** U.S. Dept of Ag. Available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/cropweat/2003/we2203.pdf>. [URL verified 6/3/03].
- Iragavarapu, Raj. 2003. **Basing Hybrid Maturity Switches on Long-term Data.** Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Available online at http://www.pioneer.com/growingpoint/agronomy/crop_insight/1012.jsp. [URL verified 6/3/03]. **Note that online access to this document requires free registration via Pioneer's GrowingPoint™ Web site.**
- Nielsen, Bob. 2003. **Delayed Corn Planting Issues for Southern Indiana.** Purdue Univ. Corny News Network. Available online at <http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.03/DelayPlantSouth-0528.html> [URL verified 6/3/03].
- Vincelli, Paul. 2003. **Risk of Leaf Disease in Late-Planted Corn.** Kentucky Pest News. Univ. of Kentucky. Available online at http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/kpn/kpn_03/pi030519.htm. [URL verified 6/3/03].

Don't forget, this and other timely information about corn can be viewed at the Chat 'n Chew Café on the Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org/cafe>. For other information about corn, take a look at the Corn Growers' Guidebook on the Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org>.

© 2003, Purdue University