



Agronomy Notes for Week ending August 6, 2011

**Corn** Plant Development is in the R3 (Milk) stage which is normally 18-22 days after silking. We have picked over 200 Growing Degree Units (GDU's) in the last week.

**GDU's for week ending August 6**

Planting Date	GDU's	Plant Stage
25-Apr	1860	R3
5-May	1830	R3
15-May	1720	R2-R3

Looking back our average tassel/silking date this year was July 21. If you use the rule of thumb that a corn plant is physiologically mature (R6 or black layer) in 55-60 days after pollination we should reach black layer September 15-20. In comparing the tassels dates in the last five years the average of those dates is July 18, we are three days behind the average, we are however picking up GDU's fast.

**Average Tassel**

Date	Year
7-Jul	2007
23-Jul	2008
27-Jul	2009
12-Jul	2010
21-Jul	2011

In walking fields and digging plants the root systems are better than would be expected considering the wet soil conditions we dealt with this spring. These roots systems will continue their rapid uptake of Nitrogen and Phosphorus until Dent (R5). The potassium uptake in the corn plant is complete shortly after Silking (R1), conversely this about the same time the roots in the corn plant will reach their maximum growth potential.

**Soybean** Plant Development is at R3 (Beginning Pod) which is when we see pods in the four uppermost nodes on the main stem to R4 (Full Pod) when we find ¼ inch pods in the four uppermost nodes.

In walking soybean fields we have seen an increasing level of soybean aphids with some fields already being sprayed. Soybeans in general look very good and it is surprising with all of the wet weather and moist soil conditions that we haven't started to see issues with White Mold or Sudden Death Syndrome popping up.

**Answer Plot** Our next Answer Plot session in Hayfield is Thursday August 18, with a 3:00 PM start time.