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## Splitting Corn Seedlings to Assess Plant Viability

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# Splitting Corn Seedlings to Assess Plant Viability

## **Abstract**

A hard freeze last weekend resulted in leaf loss in emerged corn seedlings across central and northern Iowa. Several recent articles in ICM news provide insight on the situation. Photos 1 and 2 here show damage in one field in Story County; corn was at about V2 when the frost occurred.

## **Keywords**

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## **Disciplines**

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## Splitting Corn Seedlings to Assess Plant Viability

By Roger Elmore and Lori Abendroth, Department of Agronomy

A hard freeze last weekend resulted in leaf loss in emerged corn seedlings across central and northern Iowa. Several recent articles in ICM news provide insight on the situation. Photos 1 and 2 here show damage in one field in Story County; corn was at about V2 when the frost occurred.

The need to assess plant stands by splitting stems was mentioned in [Hard Freezes and Emerged Corn](#), a recent ICM news article. [Additional photos](#) posted on our website provide an illustration of how to do this. There are also photos on this site of plants from this field that show the healthy growing point of a seedling frosted off at the ground level. If plants look like the one posted on our web page (or better), they will likely recover.



**Photo 1. Frost on May 8-9 affected plants differently in side-by-side rows. Story County IA photo by R. Elmore.**



**Photo2. Frost on May 8-9 affected plants differently within a row. Two plants on left were seemingly unaffected; the three on the right were were frozen to the ground. Story County IA photo by R. Elmore.**

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