Degree Days - Watching, Waiting and Staying Warm

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Abstract
A near-perfect week! Sept.13 - 20 provided seasonally normal temperatures, bright sunshine and some light rain at week's end; all of which are favorable to Iowa's maturing crop. As of Sept. 21, the mid-range forecast is calling for night temperatures that should NOT approach killing temperatures. If this bears out, it will mean no early frost in 2009.

Keywords
Plant Pathology

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Meteorology

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By Rich Pope, Department of Plant Pathology

A near-perfect week! Sept.13 - 20 provided seasonally normal temperatures, bright sunshine and some light rain at week's end; all of which are favorable to Iowa's maturing crop. As of Sept. 21, the mid-range forecast is calling for night temperatures that should NOT approach killing temperatures. If this bears out, it will mean no early frost in 2009.

Base 50°F degree days
May 1 through September 20, 2009

Late-season foliar diseases, especially northern corn leaf blight of corn, flourished on susceptible hybrids, and has likely reduced yields some in spots. Soybean aphids were still found in some fields close to senescing, and winged aphids and nymphs were easy to find in central Iowa on it's overwintering host, buckthorn.

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