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Degree Days - Average IS a Good Thing

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Abstract

A nearly average week of heat and some rain to boot! August could not have started better for Iowans, except for the band of hail and wind damage along the U.S. 20 / Iowa 175 corridor. For the week, we only lost around 10 to 15 base-50F degree days to average across Iowa. Like they say, just what the doctor ordered (except for the hail!). Statewide, corn development ranges from brown silk (R2) to dough stage (R3), and soybeans are busily filling pods (R4--R5).

Keywords

Plant Pathology

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Meteorology | Plant Pathology

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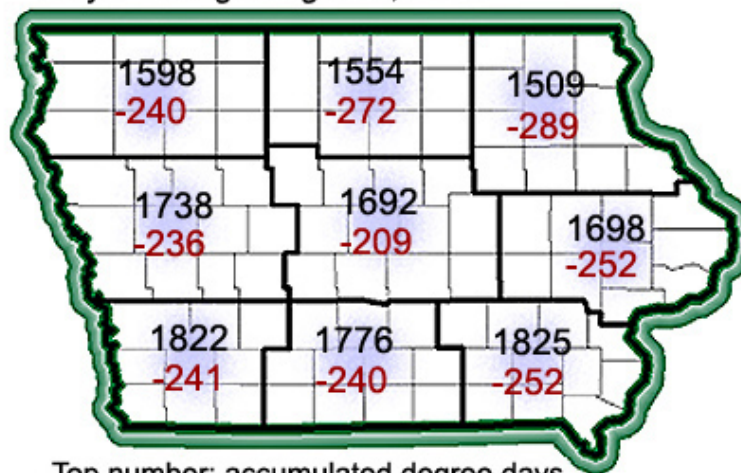
Degree Days - Average IS a Good Thing

By Rich Pope, Department of Plant Pathology

A nearly average week of heat and some rain to boot! August could not have started better for lowans, except for the band of hail and wind damage along the U.S. 20 / Iowa 175 corridor. For the week, we only lost around 10 to 15 base-50F degree days to average across Iowa. Like they say, just what the doctor ordered (except for the hail!).

Statewide, corn development ranges from brown silk (R2) to dough stage (R3), and soybeans are busily filling pods (R4--R5).

Base 50°F degree days
May 1 through August 9, 2009



Top number: accumulated degree days
Bottom number: departure from average

Soybean aphid numbers are increasing with some fields reaching the economic threshold of 250 per plant and increasing; most notably in the northeast, but in other scattered areas as well.

Corn leaf aphids have been bothersome in northwest and north central Iowa as well. There are not good thresholds available for treatment for aphids on corn, but extension entomologist Erin Hodgson posted a [recent ICM News article that highlights the corn aphid](#). Corn leaf aphid numbers typically decline after tasselling, so the problem may soon start to ebb.

Also of interest is the Web page assembled by ISU Extension addressing late-season hail issues.

Rich Pope is a program specialist with responsibilities with Integrated Pest Management. Pope can be contacted at ropope@iastate.edu or by calling (515) 294-5899.

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