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Good growin’ weather

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Abstract
The week of June 5 through June 12 finally was slightly above long-term average temperatures, and in all but northwest and north central Iowa we have essentially made up the growing degree deficit since May 1. Crops now are also growing well, with weeds the most critical issue facing farmers in most places.

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Good growin’ weather

by Rich Pope, Department of Entomology

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Scattered insect reports include several cases where alfalfa weevils were active in alfalfa nearing harvest. In many cases, cutting has controlled the populations, but any alfalfa that doesn’t begin to green up in a few days should be checked. Two field specialists in eastern Iowa reported millipedes feeding lightly on soybean cotyledons and other parts. Millipedes normally feed on a variety of decaying organic matter but sometimes will also feed lightly on growing tissue; however, economic damage is extremely unlikely.

Rich Pope is an extension program specialist in entomology with responsibilities in integrated pest management.