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## Is it the bark, or is it the bite?

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## Is it the bark, or is it the bite?

### **Abstract**

The dog days of summer are here, and Iowa crops cover the gamut, ranging from excellent and happily barking, to awful. Farmers in southeast and east-central Iowa have been bitten, with seasonal moisture running more than 3 inches behind normal (see map below). We are at a point where degree days are not as important for crop development as total plant stress.

### **Disciplines**

Agriculture | Entomology



## Degree Days

# Is it the bark, or is it the bite?

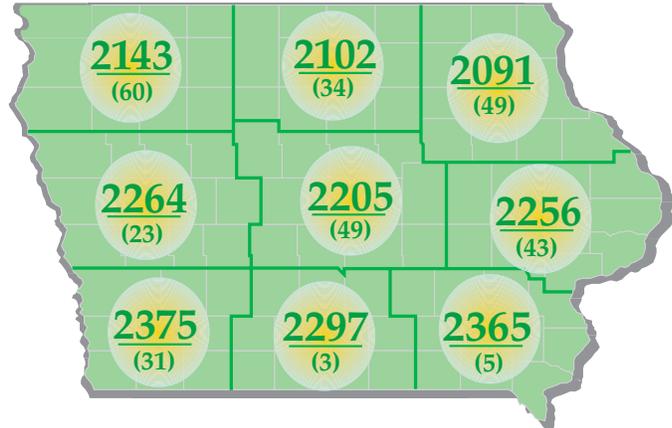
by Rich Pope, Department of Entomology

The dog days of summer are here, and Iowa crops cover the gamut, ranging from excellent and happily barking, to awful. Farmers in southeast and east-central Iowa have been bitten, with seasonal moisture running more than 3 inches behind normal (see map below). We are at a point where degree days are not as important for crop development as total plant stress.

We are just seeing the first signs of early crop death from several sources. Sudden death syndrome of soybean, soybean cyst nematode damage, and other diseases that interfere with plant vascular tissue can shut the system down early.

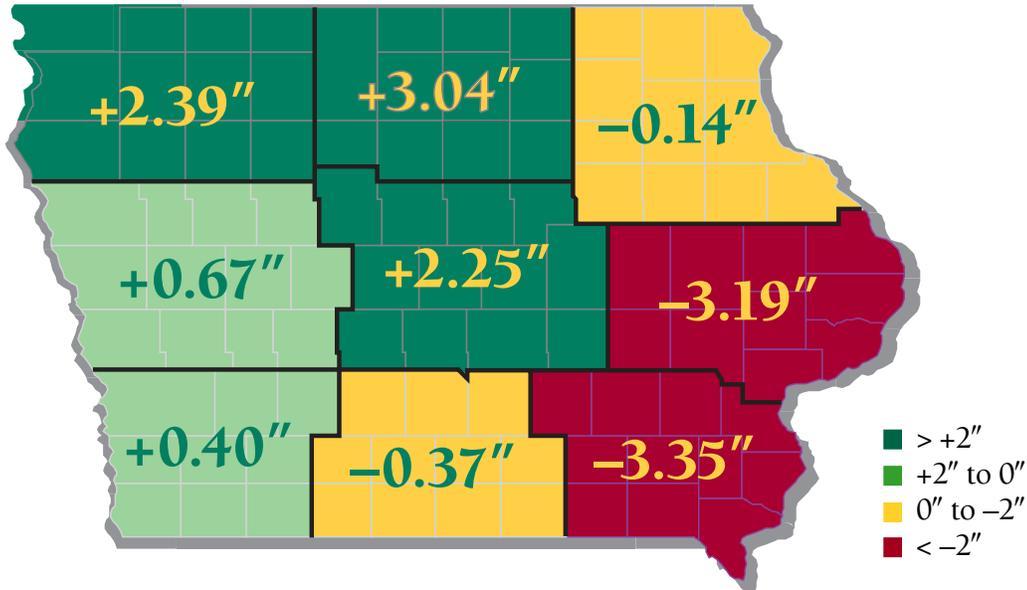
As harvest approaches, take a little time to document what happened where and when in crop fields, so that information can add to next year's management portfolio.

Accumulated Base: 50° F Degree Days  
May 1 through August 21, 2005



Accumulated degree days  
(departure from average)

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



Moisture deficit by district, May 1–August 15, 2005