



Your Solution Resource



...Management Information For Your Farm

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Planting Date and Corn Maturity

We have had a number of questions about corn maturity and how long it will take for this crop to reach black layer. Corn is considered fully mature when it reaches black layer since grain fill is complete at that point. Grain moisture will vary based on hybrid but typically it is in the range of 30-35% moisture at black layer. The key component that drives corn development is the accumulation of Growing Degree Days (GDD) also known as heat units. For a single day GDD is calculated by taking the 1) daily high temperature 2) plus the daily low temperature 3) divided by 2 for a daily average 4) then subtract 50 which is a base temperature. For example: Daily high temperature is 75 and daily low temperature is 55. 1) $75+55=130$ 2) $130/2=65$ 3) $65-50$ (base temp) = 15 GDD for that particular day. Most of the 111-113 day corn hybrids in our area reach black layer at approximately 2800 GDD. Below is table planting dates with actual accumulated up to August 5th and **estimated** dates for black layer based on the scenario of accumulating 28 GDD per day or 15 GDD per day from this point forward.

Planting Date	Actual GDD Accumulated up to August 5	Estimated Date of Black Layer Based on 28 GDD per Day (86°high, 70° low)	Estimated Date of Black Layer Based on 15 GDD per Day (75°high, 55° low)
April 4	2464	August 16	August 26
April 11	2357	August 19	September 2
April 18	2296	August 21	September 6
April 25	2238	August 23	September 10
May 2	2170	August 25	September 15
May 9	2116	August 26	September 18
May 16	1992	August 30	September 26
May 23	1897	September 1	October 3
May 30	1780	September 5	October 11
June 6	1593	September 13	October 23
June 13	1411	September 16	November 4
June 20	1261	September 22	November 14

The table below estimates the number of days to maturity from different corn growth stages.

Stage	Days to Maturity	Growing Degree Days (GDD) to Maturity	% Maximum Yield		Moisture Content	
			Grain	Whole Plant	Grain	Whole Plant
Silk	50-55	1100-1200	0	50-55	---	80-85
Blister	40-45	875-975	0-10	55-60	85-95	80-85
Late Milk-Dough	30-35	650-750	30-50	65-75	60-80	75-80
Early Dent	20-25	425-525	60-75	75-85	50-55	70-75
Fully Dented	10-15	200-300	90-95	100	35-40	65-70
Black Layer	0	0	100	95-100	25-35	55-65

FS Wheat For 2012

It is a new season, but your goal remains the same. You need to maximize every acre, and seed selection is the first step. Below is the FS Wheat lineup for 2012:

FS 600 - FS 600 is a very early line with excellent winter hardiness and possible Siemer Grain Variety. Great for double crop.

FS 602 - New !! FS 602 is an early bearded line with great disease package and high yield. It will respond to high management practices. Limited supply.

FS 610 - FS 610 is an early maturing wheat that yields great with superior test weight. Possible Siemer Grain Variety. TOP SELLER for 2011.

FS 620 - FS 620 is a medium tall/medium maturity line with good grain quality.

FS 622 - New !! Mid maturity line that is bearded with excellent disease and yield potential. Responds to high management practices.

FS 628 - FS 628 is a tall, medium-early wheat that performs well from Wisconsin to deep southern Illinois.

FS 630 High yielding variety with a good disease package. FS 630 will work both north and south. TOP SELLER for 2011.

Start Planning for Alfalfa Summer Seeding

The optimum time to fall seed alfalfa is mid-to-late August. This allows time for good stand establishment and should improve winter survival. Consider the following when making plans.

- Soil test. The optimum soil pH is 6.5 to 7.0. Low pH should be corrected before seeding alfalfa.
- Seed at 18-23 pounds/acre for pure alfalfa stands.
- Avoid re-establishing alfalfa in a field with an existing stand that is over 1 year old. Destroy old stands and rotate to another crop for a growing season.
- Apply P and K according to soil tests.
- Prepare a good seedbed (firm and level).
- Consider herbicide carryover potential. Alfalfa seedlings are especially sensitive to triazine herbicides.
- Do not use a nurse crop with late summer alfalfa seedings.

Key WL Alfalfa Varieties

WL 350LH/RR – First stacked variety with both Roundup Ready Technology and leafhopper resistance

WL 355RR – Elite genetics with Roundup Ready Technology

WL 367RR/HQ – The first stacked variety with both Roundup Ready Technology and HQ quality.

A Successful Year Starts with Good Seed Decisions- Harvest is right around the corner. Early in the harvest season you will get a good indication of which varieties are performing well and ordering early helps secure the best varieties in the seed sizes you want. Ordering early also gives you an opportunity to secure the new releases that sell out early. It is important to have trial amounts of new hybrids and varieties for the next years seed selection decision. Talk to your Crop Specialist today about the early order incentives and selecting the best varieties to maximize bushels and net income for 2012!