

# SHELBY COUNTY CROP TALK

May 15, 2020

**Crop Scout:** This week we started out cold and dry. Since warm weather is arriving with rain events, expect to see crops emerging more rapidly over the coming days. The rain should help reduce emergence issues where hard soil crusts were starting to form. Since Sunday, the county has accumulated just over 50 GDUs with more than half coming from today and yesterday. Assuming 110 GDUs to emergence, corn planted on Wednesday should emerge around the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Although some plant death was noted on scattered soybean plants, Saturday morning's freeze left most emerged corn or soybean plants with either partial damage or none at all. It appears that more areas will need replanted from planting in tight soils than from freeze damage. We have started to already see some recovery in frost damaged plants. Recovery can be seen in the picture to the right. The primary growing point on this plant was damaged however, the axillary points on the plant survived and are putting out new growth. This plant will likely have two stems from this first node.



We continue to see alfalfa weevil larvae active in alfalfa fields. Aphid presence in wheat has been heavy, as well. Aphids are carriers of disease for wheat and insecticide control should be considered if trying to maximize yield. If you believe you have damage from either of these pests or any other pests reach out to me. I would be happy to come to look at your fields with you.

**Seedling Blight:** This time last year we had almost no seed planted. 2020 corn and beans both are well ahead of 2019 crop progress. However, once the seed is planted, we still have things to watch for. Crops have been emerging slowly. Some crops have been sitting in the ground for three or more weeks with little growing progress. I am concerned that some seed treatments may have started to degrade and wear off. This can open the door to seedling blights and diseases that could reduce plant vigor and stand. In corn plants that have 4 leaf collars (V4) or fewer, the root system has not developed enough to sustain itself without the seed.

Soybeans that have been slow to emerge are experiencing the same amount of risk. This risk will increase with the warm and wet weather expected this weekend and next week. If we must make a call on replant, I would recommend planting the rest of the first crop before starting to replant. Waiting allows for more time to assess crop damage while we keep productive.



**Scouting:** In a tough year it can be hard to improve the bottom line. Regular scouting is one way to prioritize passes in the field. We offer a scouting program to have regular scheduled eyes on in your fields. The programs for both corn and beans utilize drones and regularly walking your fields. If you have an interest in the value this can bring your operation, reach out to me for more information.

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## Interesting Reads:

- Seedling Blight
  - <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/first-frost-next-seedling-blight/>
- Nitrogen Rates
  - <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/choosing-the-right-nitrogen-rate-for-corn-is-important-to-profitability/>
- Corn Root development
  - <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/Roots.html>

