

## WHAT ABOUT FROST DAMAGE?

This past week we have had very unseasonably cold temperatures and last Thursday night/Friday morning we had a frost over much of Nebraska. While some fields in the area were not affected, there are definitely some fields that have some frost injury. Early last week, much of the corn in the area was looking yellow. This was due to the very cold air and soil temperatures we have been experiencing. The question is, "If your corn fields were damaged by frost, do they need to be replanted?"

Most of the corn in the area is not far enough along for the growing point to be above the ground and temperatures were not that cold for that long of a period to damage the growing point. In corn the growing point remains below the ground until the V6 stage of growth. More of a concern is soybeans that have emerged because their growing point is above the ground. Some corn fields have leaves and plants that have turned brown completely. As long as the growing point is not damaged these will sprout and regrow from the growing point. The forecast is for temperatures in the 70s and 80s this week and a chance of rain. The warmer temperatures will help plants recover faster. Fields that had cover crops or a lot of residue may show more frost damage due to colder temperatures in these environments.

What about soybeans? With the frost Thursday night/Friday morning you should be able to tell if you have injury or death to emerged soybeans early this week. If your soybeans have not emerged yet or are just peaking through, the plants should be O.K. The cold soil temperatures has delayed emergence of much of the soybean crop, so injury should be minimal in most soybean fields.

Will wheat be injured? If wheat was not headed out, it should be O.K. With the cool spring, much of the wheat crop is behind schedule and I have not seen wheat that is headed out yet. If you have a field that is headed out, there is definite concern that the developing seed could be damaged. Evaluation is by dissecting florets and evaluation of developing seed. Although this is not a common occurrence, I do remember many years ago, in the early 80s when we had a freeze in May that damaged many wheat fields in southeast Nebraska and much of the crop was cut for forage.

For more information about frost and freeze damaged crops, here are a couple of references from other Midwestern states that have dealt with this issue as well.

[http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.01/Frost\\_Corn\\_Soy-0418\\_Gallery.html](http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.01/Frost_Corn_Soy-0418_Gallery.html)

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/efans/cropnews/2010/05/spring-frost-damage-to-early-p.html>

If you have further questions about this issue, feel free to call our office at (402) 274-4755.

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