

Scouting Will Help Catch Problems

With warmer weather settling in and corn growing fast, now is the ideal window to get out and walk fields. While the crop still allows easy access, this is a key time to scout for early signs of disease, insect pressure, nutrient deficiencies, or uneven development.

By the time corn hits shoulder height, it's not only harder to navigate—it's also harder to correct problems in a timely and cost-effective way. Early detection allows for better ROI on fungicides, nutrient adjustments, or other interventions.

What to Watch For:

- **Disease Onset** – Watch for early signs of gray leaf spot, northern corn leaf blight, or tar spot, especially in fields with previous history or high residue levels.
- **Insect Pressure** – Dig roots and look for signs of feeding or larvae, especially if you're managing corn rootworm or European corn borer risk.
- **Nutrient Deficiencies** – Yellowing, purpling, or striping may indicate early-season nutrient issues like nitrogen or sulfur deficiency.
- **Weed Escapes** – Survey for late flushes of weeds before canopy closure limits herbicide options.
- **Stand and Uniformity** – Irregular height or emergence can signal compaction, residue effects, or other stress factors.

Don't Wait

Scouting before the crop gets too tall is one of the best ways to protect yield potential. Whether you're confirming the success of early-season decisions or catching surprises before they snowball, these next couple of weeks are critical.

Grab a notebook, a shovel, and your agronomic eye—your future harvest will thank you.

Source:

- Nielsen, R.L. (2002). *Growing Degree Days and Corn Development*. Purdue University.



Japanese beetle, Silk Clipping: If more than 3 beetles per ear are observed and pollination is less than 50% complete, treatment may be warranted.



Taking a look beneath the corn canopy can reveal early signs of stress—such as nutrient deficiencies, disease, or insect pressure—that may not be visible from above.

Safety Note: Stay Smart in the Heat

As summer temperatures rise, so do the risks of heat stress on the farm. Long hours, physical labor, and high humidity can quickly lead to heat exhaustion—or worse, heat stroke.

Quick Tips to Stay Safe:

- **Hydrate Often** – Drink water every 15–20 minutes, even if you're not thirsty.
- **Take Breaks** – Use shaded or air-conditioned areas to cool down regularly.
- **Dress Right** – Light-colored, breathable clothing and a wide-brimmed hat help manage body temperature.
- **Work Smart** – Schedule the toughest jobs for early morning or late evening.
- **Know the Signs** – Watch for heavy sweating, dizziness, headache or nausea. Stop immediately and cool down if symptoms appear.

Don't push through heat stress. Your health—and your safety—are worth more than the task at hand.

As we approach Independence Day, take time to recharge. Enjoy the 4th of July with your family and friends—celebrating safely both in the field and at home.



HEAT EXHAUSTION

Dizziness, thirst, heavy sweating, nausea

- Move to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing
- Sip cool water
- Seek medical help if symptoms do not improve

HEAT STROKE

Confusion, dizziness, becomes unconscious

- CALL 911
- Move to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing and remove extra layers
- Cool with water and ice

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT & SUN



Drink plenty of **water** and avoid alcohol. Beverages with electrolytes can also help protect against heat stress.



Apply **sunscreen** (SPF 30 or higher) every two hours.



Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and **light-colored clothing**.



Take regular breaks in the **shade**.



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