

Taking Our Research to New Heights

At Renk, we're committed to delivering products that perform—and that starts with how we evaluate them.

This season, we've taken our research to new heights by expanding the use of drone imagery across our corn testing network. These high-resolution visuals give us a fast, consistent, and field-wide look at every stage of crop development—from emergence to late-season stress—and help us track disease pressure.

Here's how this technology is helping us serve you better:

- **Emergence and Stand Uniformity:**
Drones allow us to quickly assess emergence consistency across entire plots. That means we can better evaluate hybrid vigor and placement potential early in the season—long before tassel.
- **Disease Monitoring Across Environments:**
From gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight to Tar Spot, drone imagery helps identify disease pressure early. We can evaluate hybrid tolerance and flag which products maintain plant health under real-world, high-pressure scenarios.
- **Stress Tolerance, Even on Tough Acres:**
Drones help us spot differences in hybrid performance under stress—like drought, compaction, or high pH soils common in western territories. That means more precise recommendations for tough fields where every bit of tolerance matters.
- **Data That Drives Placement Decisions:**
We're using these images to make more informed product calls—knowing which hybrids thrive under specific conditions and which need more managed acres.
- **Fungicide Timing and Application Support:**
Earlier disease detection supports smarter, more cost-effective fungicide strategies for both trial analysis and in-field grower decisions.

At Renk, we're using every tool available to make sure our product recommendations are backed by real data, from real fields—just like yours. Drone imagery is one more way we're turning research into results.



Brewster, MN June 26, 2025; base image shows the 5 acre research location, at this location we are looking at 105-115RM corn products that are in early testing 1200 products and 600 final stage products are put up against the current Renk line-up along with key competitor checks, the zoomed in shows the 105 RM set.

Soybean Pest Watch: Protecting Yields in Early July

As we move into early July, soybean fields are at a tipping point—developing rapidly, setting yield potential, and increasingly vulnerable to pest pressure. This is the time to scout carefully, stay informed, and act strategically. Here are the key pests that can silently rob top-end yield and what you can do to stop them.

Soybean Aphid

Soybean aphids begin their upward climb in early July, especially during the R1–R3 growth stages. Populations can double in days, and unchecked outbreaks may lead to significant yield loss—up to 50% in severe cases.

What to Watch For:

- Colonies building on upper leaves
- Sticky honeydew or sooty mold
- Economic threshold = 250 aphids/plant on >80% of plants with increasing counts

Management Tips:

- Use selective insecticides to preserve beneficials
- Avoid early, unnecessary sprays—resistance to pyrethroids is spreading
- Scout twice weekly in hot spots or fields with known pressure

Soybean Gall Midge

Gall midge adults emerge late June to early July, laying eggs in stem cracks near field edges—especially if the field bordered soybeans last year. Larvae feed inside stems, causing sudden plant death within two to three weeks.

Scout For:

- Wilting plants near edges
- Dark lesions at the stem base
- Orange larvae hidden inside stems

Additional Pests to Keep on Your Radar:

- **Stink Bugs:** Feeding during pod fill can hurt seed size and quality
- **Stem Borer:** Larvae hollow out stems, increasing lodging risk

July is when soybean yield is set or lost. The best fields are often the most closely watched. Stay ahead of aphid growth, be proactive about gall midge, and keep an eye on less obvious players like stink bugs and stem borers. Smart decisions now protect yield at harvest.

Source & References:

- Iowa State University Extension: Soybean Aphid Management
<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/soybean-aphid>
- University of Minnesota Extension: Aphid Resistance & Management
https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2024/02/strategic-farming-lets-talk-crops_26.html
- Soybean Gall Midge Alert Network: <https://soybeangallmidge.org>

