

## **Late Planted Corn**

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Lately, we've been getting a few questions about late planted corn and whether we should be starting to think about changing our planting "game plan" for that crop. Here are a few things to keep in mind when contemplating this conundrum.

### **What is the appropriate range for maturities in Traill County?**

According to Joel Ransom in the NDSU Crop & Pest report from April 20th, the corn maturity zone for all of Traill Co. and even the Southeast tip of Grand Forks County is 85-90 day RM. This maturity range would also be appropriate for the Northern part of Cass County. These maturities are appropriate for when we have "normal" conditions.

### **When is the final date to plant corn for full insurance coverage?**

The last date to plant corn in Traill County for full coverage of insurance is May 25<sup>th</sup>. Cass County's final planting date for full coverage on corn is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **When is it time to switch plans?**

- Selecting earlier hybrids may be appropriate if we get beyond May 20<sup>th</sup>. However, before making huge changes consider a few things
  - Hybrid Selection- Last fall, due to the crazy harvest season, many growers anticipated a tough spring and made decisions to order earlier hybrids. If that is the case, a good "risk management" strategy may already be in place.
  - Remember that this is a balancing act, we do not want to have wet corn in the fall, but growers also get paid on bushels and earlier maturing hybrids will limit bushels
  - Ask about how the corn hybrid dries down. Different hybrids have different kernel depths. The depth of the kernel effects drying capabilities of the hybrid. The deeper the kernel the longer it takes to dry down. This is one reason why different hybrids of the same relative maturity can dry down differently.
- This is one of those topics where it is impossible to make one blanket recommendation for all operations. These are some ideas to consider and some general guidelines. If you would like to bounce any of these ideas off of our agronomy team, stop by your local HEC office and visit with one of the agronomists there.

For more information, please see the NDSU's Crop & Pest Report from April 20<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/ndsucpr/Years/2009/April/20/20april09pdf.pdf>