

Seedling Problems

Overview

Few management decisions are as important as those made during planting. Stand establishment depends not only on the success or failure of germination, but also on early-season stresses. If you notice early-stand problems, carefully examine damaged seedlings to discover clues to the likely causes.

What you should know

- Young plants are vulnerable to pests and environmental conditions. Healthy seedlings are essential to the crop reaching full yield potential.
- Soil temperature and moisture are crucial in stand establishment. Cool, wet soils slow early corn seedling development and predispose seedlings to rot and blight. Ensure soil temperature is at or nearing 50°F to prevent early seed injury.
- Avoid working wet ground and creating cloddy seedbeds, a major cause of uneven stands. Check surface residue and adjust equipment to evenly distribute residue.

Action steps

1. **Be mindful about management:** Appropriate management practices, including timely planter service and adjustment, can help you achieve a robust stand even when corn emerges unevenly. Be mindful of planting depth, press wheel settings, speed, and fertilizer and pesticide applications.
2. **Scout fields early and often:** After planting, monitor fields closely for soil crust and use a rotary hoe, if needed, to break it up. Check for highly compacted or poorly-drained soils to avoid root rot caused by pythium and fusarium, common fungi that attack plants and cause seedling blight symptoms, especially under wet conditions.
3. **Watch for insects:** Insects can cause stand issues. White grubs feed on roots causing plants to be stunted, wilted, discolored or dead. Cutworms can attack anywhere and cause extensive damage. Fields are often infested with several species of cutworms. Because they vary in feeding habits, early diagnosis of infestation is essential.

For more information, contact:



www.nutechseed.com
1-888-647-3478



Healthy young plants are essential to help a crop reach its full yield potential.



30-Second Summary

- Healthy seedlings help your crop reach full yield potential, but seedlings are especially vulnerable to pests and environmental damage.
- Soil conditions and moisture can also damage young plants.
- Scout fields frequently after planting to monitor for any damaging conditions.

NOTES:
