

## Hail Damage

### Overview

Hail storms can have varying impacts on soybeans each year. Accurately assessing damage can help you estimate potential yield loss.

### What you should know

- Wait 3–5 days before assessing hail damage. This allows for regrowth on healthy plants for a more accurate evaluation.
- For soybeans in the vegetative stage, the crop insurance industry counts the unifoliate node and all nodes above that with a fully developed trifoliolate leaf present. A trifoliolate leaf is considered fully developed when it unrolls and leaflet edges no longer touch other portions of the leaf. For example: a plant with unifoliate leaves and a fully developed trifoliolate leaf at a node above the unifoliate is considered V2.
- Leaf defoliation can reduce yield by decreasing the leaf area needed for photosynthesis. Estimate yield loss by calculating the percent of leaf area removed from the plant or leaf area that is no longer green. Evaluate leaves on plants in multiple sites. Leaf area loss during vegetative stages of growth has minimal impact on yield.

### Action steps

1. **Assess stand loss:** Evaluate fields after early season hail storms to determine damage and whether a replant is needed. For stand losses and pod damage later in the season, refer to the *Soybean Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook* from the USDA Risk Management Agency.
2. **Estimate damage to stems:** To determine yield loss due to stem damage, evaluate both stems cut off and stems broken over. (See table.)



### 30-Second Summary

- Assess hail damage to soybeans after storms to determine if a replant is required. Allow a few days for plant to recover and regrow.
- Evaluate stem damage in order to estimate yield loss.

Soybean Stem Damage Assessment						
Stage of Growth	Percentage of Nodes Cut Off/Broken Over					
	10	20	30	40	50	65*
Percent Yield Loss						
Vc-Vn	1	3	4	6	9	18
R1	2	4	6	9	11	20
R2	3	6	8	11	13	23
R2.5	4	9	12	16	20	32
R3	6	12	17	22	28	41
R3.5	8	16	23	31	39	53

\*If more than 65% of nodes are cut off or broken over, it is impossible to predict the percentage loss that may result.

### NOTES:

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