Avoid Yield Losses from Volunteer Corn

Overview
Volunteer corn can pose a significant threat to soybean yields. Kernals left over from harvest the year before can germinate in the spring and compete with soybeans in the growing season.

What you should know
• Research shows significant yield loss results from delayed control of volunteer corn, regardless of the control method. A University of Nebraska-Lincoln study found that the highest yield reduction occurred when volunteer corn was controlled too late at the R2 soybean growth stage or later.
• A study from South Dakota State University reported yield losses of up to 54% in soybeans from volunteer corn.
• Clumps of volunteer corn from dropped ears impact yields at four times the rate of individual plants.

Action steps
1. Manage fall tillage: Let seed stay on the surface, rather than tilling it under where it may germinate prior to freezing.
2. Control volunteer corn early: There are several herbicides labeled for control of volunteer corn in soybeans.
3. Watch for corn rootworm pressure: Any benefit to CRW management from crop rotation is nullified if a heavy volunteer corn population is present in soybeans, since CRW larvae will feed and mature on uncontrolled volunteer corn.

https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2018/impacts-volunteer-corn-crop-yields

Volunteer corn can be controlled through management practices and herbicide programs.

30-Second Summary
• Volunteer corn poses a significant threat to soybean yield.
• A combination of management practices and herbicides can help control volunteer corn.
• Choose a herbicide that is labeled for control of volunteer corn in soybeans.

NOTEs:

For more information, contact:

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