

Corn and Soybean Production

Profit-minded observations and tips on increasing yields from industry experts.

Fred Below, Ph.D., University of Illinois plant physiology professor:

Seven key factors in corn yield, in order of impact, are weather, nitrogen, genetics, previous crop, plant population, tillage and growth regulators/fungicides.

The yield value of individual factors is small compared to the combination of all factors.

Mike Owen, Ph.D., Iowa State University associate chair and agronomy professor:

Apply herbicides to protect crop yields, not kill weeds. Residual herbicides increase yield, better manage weeds and time, and save nutrients for crop use.

Wayne Pedersen, Ph.D., University of Illinois professor emeritus of plant pathology:

Protecting crops from disease early in development is critical.

Seed treatment insecticide/fungicide combinations have been shown to increase corn yield more than 25 bushels per acre and soybean yield more than 8 bushels per acre. Foliar insecticide and fungicide treatments increased soybean yield 6 bushels per acre.

Bryan Young, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University weed science professor:

Although excessive or sole reliance on glyphosate is affordable, simple and flexible, it may provide incomplete weed control and increases the risk of selecting herbicide-resistant weeds.

Apply residual herbicides as close to planting as possible at strong residual rates, because surviving weeds that require a re-spray can cost up to \$9 per acre in soybean yield loss.



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