

# AGRONOMIC ALERT



## Corn Replanting Decisions

Cool temperatures and wet conditions have put a stress on corn germination and emerging seedlings. This may cause some concern about reduced corn stands. Before deciding to replant, evaluate the stand for population and uniformity. Next, compare yield potential of the existing stand with yield potential of the replant, as well as insurance or government program restrictions. Finally, if the decision is made to replant, consider various management practices discussed in this ALERT to optimize yield potential.

### Evaluating the Existing Stand

When evaluating corn stands, only count plants that have a good chance of survival. Observe the uniformity of the stand across the field to decide whether replanting the entire field or portions of the field is justified. Spotting in without destroying the existing stand is not recommended. There may be low areas in fields that will not survive, while the rest of the field will have a good stand. Replanting only the drowned out areas may be a viable option. Carefully evaluate the field for replant options.

One way to evaluate corn stands is to count the number of plants in a length of row equal to 1/1,000<sup>th</sup> of an acre based on row width (Table 1). Multiply the number of plants by 1,000 to get the plants per acre. Repeat the process in several locations in the field.

A more accurate method is to count 150 plants and measure

**Table 1. Stand count evaluation for 1/1,000<sup>th</sup> acre based on row width and number of plants in a given row length.**

Row Width (inches)	Row Length 1/1,000 <sup>th</sup> acre (feet, inches)
20	26' 2"
30	17' 5"
36	14' 6"
38	13' 9"

**Table 2. Stand count evaluation factors, by row width, for measuring the distance when counting 150 plants.**

Row Width (inches)	Factor
20	3,920,400
30	2,613,600
36	2,178,000
38	2,063,350

the distance from start to finish with a measuring wheel. Divide the number of feet traveled into the appropriate factor in Table 2 to determine plant population. For example, if you walked 94 feet while counting 150 plants in 30-inch rows, the population is 2,613,600 ÷ 94 = 27,804. Because a longer row length is counted, the samples are more representative and fewer locations are required.

**Table 3. Percent of Maximum Yield Expected from Planting on Different Dates and at Different Plant Populations. Source: Purdue Corn & Soybean Field Guide.**

Planting Date	Plant Population (x1000) Per Acre													
	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
	—% of Optimum Yield—													
April 10	62	68	73	78	82	85	88	91	92	93	94	94	93	91
April 15	65	71	76	81	85	88	91	94	95	96	97	96	96	94
April 20	67	73	78	83	87	90	93	96	97	98	99	98	98	96
April 25	68	74	79	84	88	92	94	97	98	99	100	100	99	97
April 30	68	74	79	84	88	92	95	97	99	100	100	100	99	97
May 5	67	73	79	83	87	91	94	96	98	99	99	99	98	97
May 10	65	71	77	82	86	89	92	94	96	97	97	97	96	95
May 15	63	69	74	79	83	87	89	92	93	94	95	95	94	92
May 20	59	65	71	75	80	83	86	88	90	91	91	91	90	89
May 25	55	61	66	71	75	79	81	84	85	86	87	87	86	84
May 30	49	55	61	65	70	73	76	78	80	81	81	81	80	79
June 4	43	49	54	59	63	67	70	72	74	75	75	75	74	73
June 9	36	42	47	52	56	60	62	65	66	67	68	68	67	65

### Deciding Whether to Replant

After taking stand counts, consider the yield potential of the current stand and planting date, compared to the yield potential of the target replanting stand and date, and the costs associated with replanting. Table 3 illustrates expected grain yield from various planting dates and final plant populations, based on uniform stands.

### When the Decision is Made to Replant

First you must remove the existing stand. Tillage is an option in many cases; however, depending on the growth stage of the original stand, two passes may be necessary. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides are also an option when the original stand does not contain Roundup Ready® 2 Technology. If the original stand is a Roundup Ready® corn product, the tank mix options in Figure 1 can provide control

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of the original stand. The original plants must exhibit growing green tissue and 2 to 4 leaves for the herbicides to be effective. Complete kill may take up to 21 days after application.

Second, determine which relative maturity (RM) to use when replanting. As planting occurs after May 1, corn requires approximately 1.6 fewer growing degree days (GDDs) per day of delayed planting to reach flowering. GDDs required to reach physiological maturity, or black layer, decreases approximately 6.8 GDDs per day of delayed planting after May 1.

Third, decide on a management practice to protect against corn rootworm and other soil insects, as well as European Corn Borer (ECB). Most soil insecticides can not legally be applied twice in the same growing season in the same location in a field. Growers can replant over the old row and expect some control from the first application of soil insecticide. Another option is to use a different soil insecticide when replanting. A third option is to replant with corn hybrids containing the Genuity® family of traits. Depending on region and insect pests present, Genuity® SmartStax™, Genuity® VT Triple PRO™, and Genuity® VT Double PRO™ offer multiple modes of action for protection against a broad spectrum of insects. Later planted corn is more susceptible to second generation ECB. Research from The Ohio State University suggested significant advantages in overall yield and consistency of yield for hybrids with the corn borer-protection trait compared to their conventional counterparts, when planted in late May and early June.

Finally, another consideration is later planted corn also has a greater chance of being exposed to heat and drought stress during pollination. This risk can be managed by selecting a hybrid with heat and drought tolerance and early flowering.

Please consult your area agronomist for more information regarding the decision factors for replanting corn.

### Figure 1. Tank Mix Options for Removing Corn for Replant

#### Option 1:

Select Max®	6 oz/acre
Non-ionic Surfactant	0.25% v/v
Ammonium Sulfate	2.5 to 4 lbs./acre

- May be applied as a tank mixture with Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides.
- Application should be made prior to volunteer corn reaching 12 inches in height.
- Do not use a crop oil concentrate (COC) or methylated seed oil (MSO).
- Replant corn no sooner than 6 days after application.
- Care must be taken to avoid in-field boom (spray) overlaps or excessive crop injury may occur.

#### Option 2:

Gramoxone Inteon®	2.25 pt/acre (for corn 1 to 3" tall) <b>OR</b> 2.5 pt/acre (for corn 3 to 6" tall)
	<b>plus</b>
Metribuzin DF®	3 oz/acre <b>OR</b>
Atrazine	1 lb/acre
	<b>plus</b>
COC	1% v/v

- Apply in 10 to 15 gallons of water.
- There are no plant back restrictions.
- Clarity® herbicide may be added at 8 oz/acre for enhanced control of marestail and other tough-to-control broadleaves.
- 2,4-D at 1 pt/acre may be added, but typically requires a 7 day plant back interval.
- Check the Clarity and 2,4-D labels for specific instructions.

Sources: S. Brouder et al. 2007. *Corn & Soybean Field Guide*. Purdue University

The Ohio State Univ. C.O.R.N. Newsletter 2005-13

Illinois Agronomy Handbook, 23rd edition, p. 27.

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