



Have Your Soybeans Been Hailed On?

With the recent weather across the region, hail has a different effect on soybeans. Fortunately, leaf loss and defoliation during the vegetative stages of the soybeans have little effect on soybean yield. Stand loss impacts final yield more than defoliation during vegetative stages. For example, if the original plant population was 120,000 plants per acre and half the stand was lost, yield potential would be 75% to 80% of normal — a 20-25% reduction.

In contrast to corn, soybeans have multiple above ground growing points, any of which can generate a stem during vegetative growth stages. For example, a soybean plant at V1, or one trifoliolate, has two axillary buds at the cotyledons, two at the unifoliolate leaves, and one at the trifoliolate leaf plus the one terminal bud for a total of six buds available for growth. Therefore, soybean plants that were cut above the cotyledons have at least two axillary buds for regrowth.

Soybeans are resilient to recover from leaf and stem defoliation and from my experience, I have often seen hail damage cause an unidentified synergy in the plants effort to recover that leads to a yield boost.

As a reminder, contact your insurance agent and have fields visited by an adjuster prior to replanting.

For a detailed step by step evaluation publication follow this link:

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec128.pdf>