

No. 21 Sept. 24, 2026

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CORN ROOTWORM TRAPPING SEASON ENDS

All corn rootworm traps were pulled from the corn fields, so this is the last weekly update on corn rootworm trapping.

Past IPM insect trapping results are available in the NDSU Extension [Crop & Pest Report](#) and on the [IPM Crop Survey map](#) website.

The corn growth stages ranged from R5 (dent) to R6 (maturity) during September 7 - 18, 2026.

Corn rootworms were detected at 17 of 30 trap sites (57%) for week 7 (Sept. 7-11) and 14 of 20 trap sites (70%) for week 8 (Sept 14-18). For week 7, trap catches ranged from 0 to 28.9 beetles per trap per week (Table 1). For week 8, trap catches ranged from 0 to 13.5 beetles per trap per week (Table 1). A total of 257 and 139 corn rootworm beetles were captured on yellow sticky traps across all trap sites during weeks 7 and 8, respectively. Northern corn rootworms (NCR) comprised 99.2% (week 7) and 100% (week 8) of the total corn rootworms captured.

The total number of corn rootworms captured during the 2026 field trapping season is 1729 beetles from 33 trapping sites in 16 counties.



Sticky trap mounted on corn stalk at ear height to monitor corn rootworm adults (in circles). (V. Calles Torrez)

V. Calles-Torrez, NDSU

Table 1. Average number of adult corn rootworms (both northern and western) per trap per week in 2026.

Area	County	Nearest Town	Week 1 July 27 - 31	Week 2 Aug 3 - 7	Week 3 Aug 10 - 14	Week 4 Aug 17 - 21	Week 5 Aug 24 - 28	Week 6 Aug 31 - Sept 4	Week 7 Sept 7 - 11	Week 8 Sept 14 - 18	
Central	Foster	6 S Grace City		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Central	Foster	8 E Carrington		0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	
EC	Griggs	2 N Hannaford	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.3	
EC	Griggs	2 W Cooperstown		0.0	0.9	0.7	1.8	2.0	3.8	1.5	
EC	Griggs	3 NE Sutton		0.0	0.0	0.9	2.0	0.5	3.8	4.3	
EC	Griggs	5 S Hannaford	0.0	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	
EC	Griggs	7 SW Cooperstown		2.0	2.3	3.7	7.3	9.0	6.5	1.8	
EC	Griggs	8 N Cooperstown		0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	
NC	Sheridan	10 NE McClusky		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
NC	Ward	3 SW Minot		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
NE	Cavalier	5 E Langdon		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
NE	Pembina	1 NE Cavalier		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
NW	McKenzie	3 NW Alexander		0.3							
NW	Williams	Williston		0.0							
SE	Barnes	1 SE Rogers	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.9	0.3	
SE	Barnes	9 SE Sibley	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	2.0	
SE	Cass	4 E Argusville	0.8	0.8	14.5	17.3	18.0	24.9	28.9	6.5	
SE	Cass	4 NE Page	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.5	2.2	1.2	0.3	
SE	Ransom	8 NE Lisbon	5.0	11.2	14.2	5.5	11.8	10.9	3.2	1.3	
SE	Richland	1 E Hankinson	0.3	1.3	2.8	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.3		
SE	Richland	2 SW Barney	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0		
SE	Richland	3 NW Galchutt	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.0	
SE	Richland	5 SW Lidgerwood	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.8	0.8	5.5	1.0		
SE	Richland	5 W Colfax	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0		
SE	Richland	6 E Hankinson	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.8	0.5	
SE	Richland	6 SW Colfax	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.0		
SE	Richland	6 SW Hankinson	1.8	3.0	2.8	1.5	2.3	5.3	0.5		
SE	Richland	7 SW Wahpeton	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5		
SE	Sargent	4 SE Rutland	2.0	0.0	1.8	1.3	4.5	2.8	5.3	1.5	
SE	Sargent	5 NW Gwinner	4.0	5.3	13.4	9.3	22.0	25.4	12.3	13.5	
SE	Steele	3 N Finely	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	
SW	Billings	4 NW Belfield		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5			
SW	Stark	4 SW Dickinson		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
			Total # CRW	58	89	267	192	308	419	257	139
			Percent NCR	93.1	93.3	99.3	97.4	99.7	98.1	99.2	100.0
			Percent WCR	6.9	6.7	0.7	2.6	0.3	1.9	0.8	0.0

Economic Threshold is an average of 14 or more adults per trap per week (regardless of species)

Yellow highlighted and red text indicates that the corn field is at or above the ET.

In week 7, one corn field in Cass County near Argusville was above the economic threshold for corn rootworm (see IPM map). Look for lodged corn stalks as an indicator of severe larval feeding. As expected, the overall corn rootworm population declined during Week 8 (Sept. 14–18) as cooler fall temperatures set in.

The hot spots for high corn rootworm populations remain in southeastern North Dakota. Other regions have low to zero corn rootworm populations this year (see IPM map).

Trap Economic Threshold:

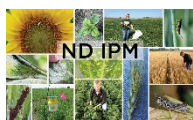
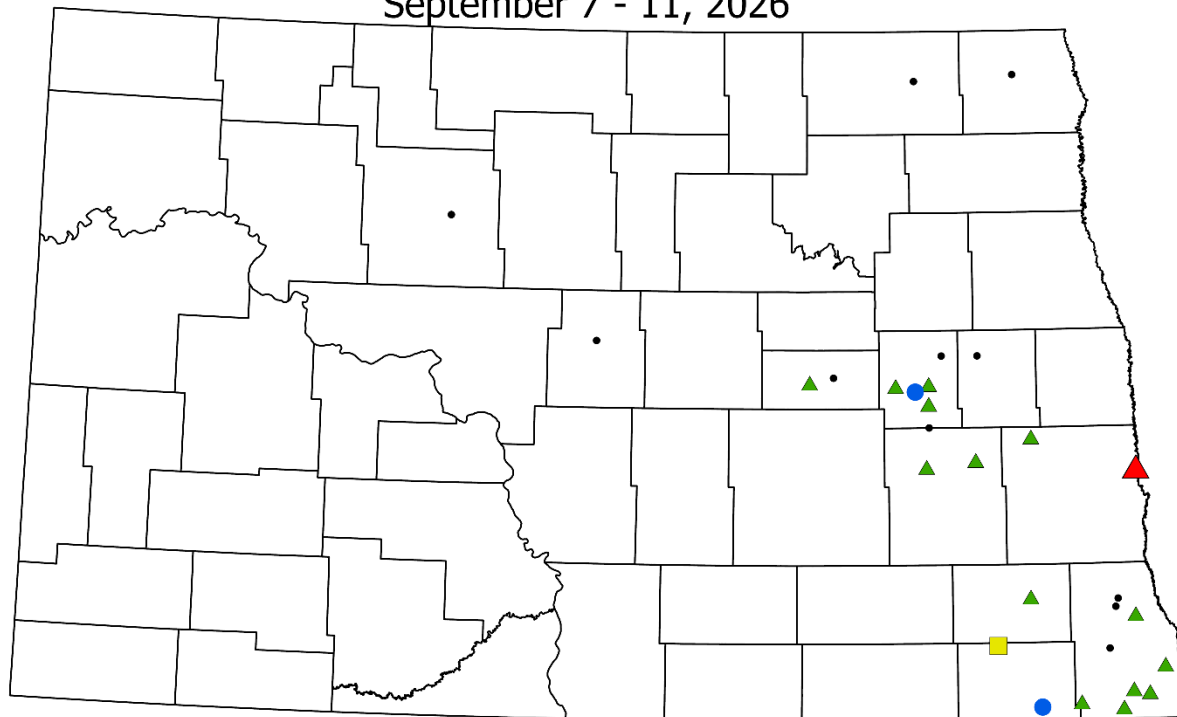
A capture rate of **14 or more adults per trap per week** (either NCR or WCR, or any combination of the two species) indicates a **high rootworm population and high risk for corn damage in that field for the 2027 season**.

Thanks to all the insect trappers.

Corn Rootworm (CR) Trapping

Northern and Western CR

September 7 - 11, 2026



Average number of beetles per trap per week

- 0 ● 5.01-10 ▲ ≥14 (Economic Threshold)
- ▲ 0.01-5 ■ 10.01-13.99



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TIME TO CONSIDER TARE SOIL DURING SUGARBEET HARVEST

Following an extremely dry summer in much of the Red River Valley, a little rain in the fall is welcomed. When moisture turns to mud during sugarbeet harvest, not so much.

Tare soil, or the soil that adheres to the sugarbeet root during and after harvest, is an important consideration during stockpile harvest. Tare soil increases transportation, storage, and processing costs. Reducing the amount of tare soil benefits everyone involved.

From a plant pathology perspective, tare soil brings two main challenges: 1) Risk of transporting soilborne pathogens; and 2) Implications for sugarbeet storage over the winter. Both related to microorganisms within the tare soil, rather than the soil itself.

1. Risk of transporting soilborne pathogens: Generalist pathogens such as *Rhizoctonia solani* can infect multiple crops in the region, including soybean and dry bean, and may be spread within, or even between, fields by tare soil containing pathogen or infested crop residue. Soil may also accumulate on sugarbeet lifters or other equipment. Even if cultural and chemical control or resistant varieties have been successful in a field, good tare soil practices can help protect these tools into the future by limiting growth and spread of the pathogen.
2. Implications for sugarbeet storage: During winter, the goal is to freeze beet roots to minimize losses from respiration. Tare soil that ends up in the pile brings additional bacteria and fungi that also respire. Respiration means heat! This process is part of a feedback loop: Higher pile temperatures favor increased microbial activity, which in turn leads to increased pile temperatures. Often, these microbes do not cause disease or direct losses, they are just “along for the ride”. Preventative steps as seemingly small as reducing tare soil in sugarbeet piles can help preserve sucrose prior to processing.

Each sugarbeet field is unique, and taking the time to clean equipment and adjust sugarbeet lifters to minimize tare soil can have benefits beyond a financial return in the short-term.

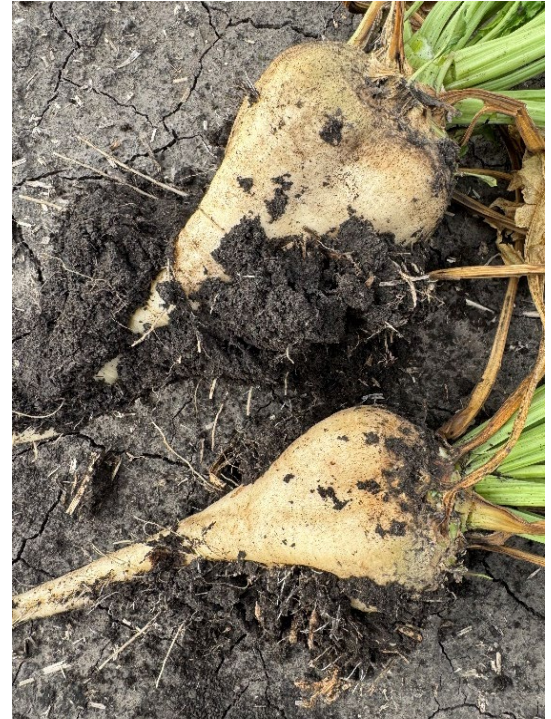


Figure 1. Sugarbeet roots. Wet soil (and some lateral roots) contributed to excessive tare soil still adhered to the root. Most, but not all, can be removed during the mechanical harvest process.

Photo credit: E. Branch

[Eric Branch](#)

Extension Plant Pathology, Sugarbeets

MANAGING SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

As we talked about in the previous Crop and Pest Report, soybean cyst nematode (SCN) remains one of the most economically damaging pests in North Dakota. For decades, genetic resistance has been the center of SCN management, but the pest's ability to overcome resistance genes necessitates that farmers take a more strategic and integrated approach to control.

Genetic Resistance

Genetic resistance remains highly effective when properly used. Recent research has demonstrated that susceptible varieties can suffer yield losses of 20–30% or more without any aboveground symptoms when populations of virulent SCN are present, whereas resistant varieties typically maintain yields near normal levels. Genetic resistance has primarily been dominated by one source called PI88788, which has been used for decades in commercial soybean production. More recently, a second source of resistance has become available commercially, called Peking.

One of the keywords here is ‘source of resistance’ which means that soybeans with PI88788-type resistance were developed from a cross with the soybean called ‘PI88788’ at some point in the breeding process. This is similar to Peking. Because of this, the degree of resistance from one PI88788 variety and another PI88788 variety will differ. This type of research has been conducted in large field trials evaluating soybean varieties on their ability to reproduce SCN throughout the season and their yield responses. This can be found in the [2025 Extension Soybean Pathology Field Research Reports](#) under Trials 20 and 21.

Due to the long-term use of PI88788 in North Dakota, SCN populations have begun adapting to this source of resistance to overcome it. As of 2024, over 57% of tested field populations are capable of effectively infecting PI88788 soybean varieties. Similarly, some populations, albeit a lower percentage, are capable of overcoming Peking soybeans. In order to maintain these sources of resistance in soybeans, it is critical to rotate between PI88788 and Peking varieties from year to year. Further, if SCN is a major issue, even rotating different soybean varieties within the same source of resistance can help to reduce selection pressure on SCN populations.

Unfortunately, in dry beans, there are no sources of resistance that are used similar to either PI88788 or Peking. However, there are observed differences in market classes in their overall susceptibility to SCN.

Crop Rotation

Rotating out of soybean remains the single most effective cultural control for SCN. Non-host crops such as corn do not support nematode reproduction, allowing populations to decline by approximately 50% per year under typical conditions. A two-year rotation (soybean in year 1, corn in year 2, then soybean in year 3) will significantly reduce population pressure and lower the selection intensity for virulent phenotypes. It is important to reiterate that dry beans are not a viable rotation crop for SCN as they can also serve as a host.

Seed Treatments

Nematode-protectant seed treatments have become increasingly important for SCN management, especially for fields with known, high SCN populations. Recent research across the U.S. and Ontario, Canada has shown that seed treatments containing fluopyram and pydiflumetofen consistently increased soybean yield relative to not treating, but neither of these products was effective as reducing SCN reproduction. Additionally, seed treatments appear to retain efficacy against many virulent SCN populations, making them valuable when resistance sources are limited, either due to availability of varieties or breakdown of resistance. However, seed treatments should be viewed as a complementary tool to resistance and rotation, not as

replacements. Their efficacy is only present for the first few weeks of the season and will only slow down the first generation of SCN.

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DROUGHT ACCELERATES SOYBEAN MATURITY AND DRY-DOWN

Soybean fields across North Dakota have changed rapidly during the past few weeks. Drought conditions and warm temperatures have accelerated crop development in many areas, with some fields progressing from green plants to harvest-ready soybeans much faster than expected. The rapid change is also reflected in crop condition and progress reports. As of Sept. 6, 33% of North Dakota soybeans were dropping leaves, 7 percentage points ahead of the five-year average.

Scout frequently during rapid dry-down

This is not a year to schedule soybean harvest based only on the calendar.

Fields approaching maturity should be checked frequently. Consider differences within fields as well. Areas with lower soil water-holding capacity may be substantially further along than areas that received more water or have deeper soils.

As harvest approaches:

- Check pods and seeds to determine maturity rather than relying only on canopy color.
- Measure seed moisture frequently as fields approach harvest.
- Prioritize fields that are already approaching 13% moisture, even if stems remain green.
- Watch for increased shattering as seed moisture declines.
- Adjust combine settings and ground speed when harvesting fields with green stems.
- Expect considerable variability within fields that experienced severe drought stress.

How fast can soybeans dry?

Soybean seed dries considerably faster than corn grain. NDSU guidance indicates that once soybeans reach R8, only five to 10 days of good drying weather may be needed for seed moisture to fall below 15%.

During this rapid dry-down period, research in Iowa and Kansas has measured soybean seed moisture losses of approximately 3 percentage points per day. The actual rate varies with temperature, relative humidity and other environmental conditions, but under favorable drying conditions, soybean moisture can quickly fall below the optimal level for harvest.

Soybeans are normally marketed at 13% moisture. Once seed moisture drops below this level, producers are essentially delivering less water, and therefore less weight, with each bushel. At the dry-down rate of 3 % per day, delaying harvest for only one or two days after soybeans reach 13% moisture could result in grain moisture levels of approximately 10% and 8%, respectively. For a field yielding 40 bushels per acre at 13% moisture, that moisture reduction represents about **1.4 to 2.3 bushels per acre of lost marketable weight**.

Brown pods but green stems?

A soybean plant turning yellow or losing leaves because of severe stress is not necessarily the same as the plant reaching normal physiological maturity. Growers should evaluate pods and seeds rather than relying on canopy color alone.

This distinction is particularly important this year. Some drought-stressed fields have mature or nearly mature pods while portions of the stems remain green. In other cases, plants that appeared to be shutting down showed renewed green tissue following rainfall, making maturity difficult to judge from the road.

Green stem syndrome occurs when soybean stems remain green even though pods and seeds have reached maturity. Stress that reduces pod number or seed development can contribute to this condition. Severe drought during flowering and pod development may cause flower and pod abortion or limit seed development, reducing reproductive demand while carbohydrates remain available in the plant. As a result, stems can remain green longer than expected or show renewed vegetative activity following late rainfall.

Most importantly, green stems do not necessarily mean the seed is too wet to harvest. A field may look surprisingly green while seeds inside mature pods are already at, or even below, harvest moisture. Growers should open pods and check seed moisture rather than waiting for every stem to turn brown.

Do not let green stems delay harvest too long

Harvesting plants with green stems can be difficult. Green plant material is tougher to cut and move through the combine, potentially reducing harvest speed and increasing fuel consumption or plugging.

However, delaying harvest solely to allow stems to dry can have consequences if seed moisture is already low.

Very dry soybeans are also more susceptible to pod shattering and seed cracking. Header losses can increase rapidly as pods become dry and brittle.

The decision should therefore be based primarily on **seed moisture and harvestability rather than stem color alone**.

[Ana Carcedo](#)
Broadleaf Crop Agronomist



YEARLY REMINDERS FOR FALL-APPLIED NITROGEN

With the cooling temperature across North Dakota the past few weeks, fall is definitely in the air! With the autumnal weather comes the yearly influx of questions across my desk on best practices for fall-applied N. While applying some or all N fertilizer in the fall for the coming crop can be a good tool for spreading out workload, it certainly comes with its drawbacks; however, through proper planning (and a little luck) some of these risks can be reduced.

Inherent risks of fall-applied N:

- The longer the timespan between fertilizer application and crop uptake, the chance for N loss significantly increases. Given approximately six months between application and meaningful crop uptake, these losses in N lead to reductions in N use efficiency (NUE), even if everything goes “right.”
- While conditions at the time of fertilizer application may be adequate, weather conditions may change prior to freeze-up leading to conditions favorable to losses.
- In the spring, saturated soils prior to planting can lead to significant losses of N to denitrification.

Maximizing efficiency of fall-applied N

- While some resources state “fall application of N may begin after October 1st,” it should read “under no circumstances should fertilizer N be applied prior to attaining proper soil conditions or before October 1st.” With the long, favorable, falls the past couple of years, conditions for reduced-risk N application did not occur until mid-November for most of the state. Looking at the long-range [National Weather Service Climate Outlook](#), temperatures will be leaning above normal until mid-October.
- Fall N applications should be delayed until the 4-inch depth soil temperature falls below 50°F during the morning hours (6 to 8 a.m.). These temperatures can be found on the [North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network \(NDAWN\) website](#) or more accurately collected from your field using a simple probe thermometer. Soil temperatures below 50°F decrease the risk of nitrification of the fertilizer. If fertilizer is applied above this temperature, microbial processes will begin to transform the ammonia and urea products into nitrate, which is susceptible to leaching or denitrification, reducing overall fertilizer efficiency and economic returns.
- Fertilizer applications should be further delayed based on the product being applied and application method. Due to an inherent delay in nitrification of banded ammonia, anhydrous ammonia can be applied soon after soil temperatures fall below 50°F consistently. One week after the threshold soil temperature is reached, applications of banded urea (two inches or deeper) can begin with reduced risk of nitrification. Broadcast

urea, given the proper conditions, is rapidly converted to nitrate. Applications of broadcast urea should be delayed at least two weeks after the 50°F soil temperature is reached.

- Using nitrification inhibitors help reduce risk of nitrification and subsequent loss by protecting against delayed soil freezing, which effectively stops N transformations in the soil; however, nitrification inhibitors should not be used to compensate for warm soil temperatures in an attempt to apply fertilizer earlier.
- Research has shown the most effective nitrification inhibitors are nitrapyrin when applied to anhydrous ammonia and dicyandiamide (DCD) when applied to urea products. Further, surface-broadcast or shallow incorporated (less than two inches) urea is highly susceptible to ammonia volatilization. Urease inhibitors such as NBPT have been shown to reduce volatilization when applied to surface and shallow-incorporated urea. Check out the NDSU Extension publication [Nitrogen Extenders and Additives for Field Crops](#) for more information.
- Avoid fall N fertilizer application on sandy soils or excessively well drained soils as these conditions increase the risk of nitrate leaching.
- To hedge risk, consider splitting the application of N between fall and spring/in-season, this will decrease the amount of N susceptible to loss while also providing more flexibility for in-season fertility decisions which are needed to maximize NUE and economic returns.
- As always, make sure to soil test to determine how much fertilizer is needed!

[Brady Goettl](#)

Extension Soil Specialist



FALL WEED CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS

Harvest has been ahead of schedule for many folks across the state. Getting crops off the field will help open up the window for fall weed control as September ends and the calendar turns to October. Here are a few points of consideration for weed control between now and when the soil freezes later this fall.

Winter Annual Weeds

Many winter annual weeds can begin germination in August and emerge throughout the fall as locations receive rainfall. Winter annual weeds of greatest concern are horseweed (maretail), narrowleaf hawksbeard, and brome grasses. Horseweed and hawksbeard are particularly difficult to control in the spring, so fall can be the best time for their control. Fall applications of 2,4-D or dicamba are usually sufficient to control our broadleaf weeds. Be careful to pay attention to crop rotations if dicamba is utilized. For winter annual grasses like the bromes, glyphosate is usually

sufficient. In general, an application of glyphosate + 2,4-D over the next month will control most winter annual weeds and set us up for success next spring. For more detail on different herbicides and weeds, please see page 7 of the 2026 Weed Control Guide for a table on weed control efficacy with fall applications.

Perennial Weed Control

Fall is also one of the best times to control our perennial weeds. Canada thistle, dandelion, and foxtail barley are the perennial weeds of most concern in row crops. The questions we receive most often for control of perennial weeds is “when does our spray window close in the fall”. Like everything else in agronomy, there is no black and white answer. However, there are a few key points to consider:

- 1) In general, herbicide applications will work best as long as daytime highs are in the 50's or above, and we do not receive a frost or freeze at night.
- 2) Control of Canada thistle and dandelion can often be better after we receive our first frost. The first frost is often a signal for plants to send more carbohydrates to the roots to survive the winter, and our systemic herbicides will follow this translocation pathway. In our geography, the first frost may be a hard freeze or come with a lot of snow, so this information can help guide some applications, but making an application in October will result in better control than missing a spray window due to mother nature shutting plants down for the year.
- 3) It is best to avoid a herbicide application if there is a frost or freeze in the morning. Systemic herbicides like glyphosate or 2,4-D work best when plants are actively growing. A frost or freeze in the morning will slow down growth of these plants on a given day. So, if warm weather is set to follow a frost event, it is best to wait for a better day.
- 4) Once a hard freeze occurs (28 degrees or below), plants will need to be evaluated. If above-ground plant tissue is no longer green, then herbicides will not be absorbed into the plants. However, if plants remain green, and if there is a series of warm days following a hard freeze, applications may still continue as the plants will still be growing and susceptible to herbicide applications.
- 5) Drought always leads to the question if it is even worth spraying for perennials like leafy spurge or Canada thistle. Information from Dr. Rod Lym's program in previous drought years (1988, 2017, others) indicates it is still a good idea to spray for these perennial weeds. Control may not be as good as non-drought years, but it will help prevent the spread of perennial structures and contain the population compared to areas that are not sprayed where these populations can expand.

Fall Applications for Control of Summer Annual Weeds Next Spring

We have been evaluating fall application of residual herbicides for control of summer annual weeds like kochia and wild oat for a number of years now. Flumioxazin (Valor, others) has long been a standard to apply in the fall for control of kochia in the spring. However, with resistance to Group 14 herbicides, this program has not been as sharp for many in recent years depending on the population. A lot of focus over the last 5 years has been around pyroxasulfone (Zidua, Anthem, others) applied in the fall for kochia and wild oat. Applications made close to ground freeze (late

October) have generally provided Poor to Fair control of kochia, and Fair to Excellent control of wild oat in our research trials (See chart on page 7 of Weed guide). So while complete control cannot be anticipated, these applications can help manage the population come spring.

This past year we also evaluated control of waterhemp from a late October application of pyroxasulfone. Fall applications of pyroxasulfone actually outperformed spring applications for waterhemp control at our Fargo location this past year. We were able to achieve over 95% control of waterhemp by soybean flowering when we had fall followed by spring applications of pyroxasulfone at soybean planting. These overlapping applications split the maximum seasonal allowance in soybean between the fall and spring applications. We evaluated Zidua SC at 3.25 fl oz in the fall, followed by 3.25 fl oz in the spring; or 4 fl oz in the fall followed by 2.5 fl oz in the spring (6.5 fl total allowed per year). While this level of control is encouraging, I must point out we observed this under drought conditions. So we did not have much opportunity to breakdown the pyroxasulfone in the soil, nor did we have many rainfall events to stimulate waterhemp germination throughout the year. This use pattern will continue to be evaluated over the next several years to determine how results can vary across multiple environments.

Herbicide Carryover Concerns for 2027

The dry conditions throughout the summer have led to many concerns about herbicide carryover to certain crops next year. It will be beneficial to most everyone this winter to take a look at the herbicides applied this summer, and the rainfall requirements to allow for rotation to certain crops next year. The products of most concern are anything containing clopyralid, or many of our Group 27 herbicides that we use in corn or small grains. There may be certain situations where 2027 cropping plans may need to be changed based on herbicides used in 2026, especially in some of the areas that are observing severe rainfall deficits. Labels will be the best guidance in these areas of concern. One note is every year we get questions about getting soil analyzed for presence of certain herbicides, typically reported back as a PPM or PPB of certain active ingredients. We do not have a lot of guidance on what a certain PPM or PPB test results actually means in regards to risk of injury from carryover, so these tests can help determine presence or absence of a product, but may not be helpful for determining level or severity of carryover concern for next year.

[Joe Ikley](#)

Extension Weed Specialist



PINE WILT DISEASE

With the finding of pine wilt disease in North Dakota in August, there have been more cases confirmed in the state. The first confirmed sites are near Forman, ND and Sheyenne River State Forest. Since these findings, sites in Enderlin, Lisbon, and near Dickinson are also confirmed to have pine wilt.

Pine wilt disease is a complex disease caused by a native nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, in combination with a native fungus (blue-stain), which are both spread by native sawyer beetles in the genus *Monochamus*. The disease only affects exotic pine species such as Scotch pine and Austrian pine in North Dakota. The nematodes cause water-conducting pores to collapse within the tree. The needles turn grayish green, then progress to yellow then reddish-brown. Affected Scotch pine trees die within one season while infected Austrian pine trees take two seasons to die.

There is no known remedy for Pine Wilt Disease. Once a tree has been confirmed as being infected, it should be removed and the wood destroyed. If you have a tree of concern, you can fill out the ND Forest Service's [Sick Tree Assistance Form](#) or contact your local Extension agent. Positive samples can only be taken from late July through early September.



Scotch pine infected with pine wilt disease. Martin Shervey NDFS

[Martin Shervey](#)
NDFS Forest Health Manager



AROUND THE STATE

NORTH CENTRAL ND

Small grain harvest is nearing completion after all of the recent delays due to rain. Wheat grain quality has diminished due to all of the moisture. Low falling numbers and sprouting have been reported in some areas. Some elevators are offering feed quality wheat prices that are 2/3 the price of normal spring wheat prices.

Canola harvest is over halfway complete. Wind, rain, and hail have now taken their toll on the crop. Before the recent bad weather, yields were between 1800 to 2400, but now yields are 1000

to 1500 lbs per acre. Pod-shatter varieties have dropped whole pods, while non-pod-shatter varieties have severe wind-induced pod shatter. There is some severe lodging in areas as well.

Soybeans are at the R6 to R8 stages. Harvest of soybeans has just started in some areas of the region. 25 to 35 bushel yields have been reported for very early-maturity soybeans. Dry July conditions have tempered expectations around the area for yields.

Corn has started to hit the black layer in areas of the region. There are some lodging issues due to the wind and rain storms. Farmers should be on the lookout for stalk or crown rots due to the abundance of moisture. Yield expectations are below average to average in the area. The recent hail storms didn't do much damage to the corn cobs, but did shred the leaves.

Sunflowers are progressing, with heads turning yellow. Some reports of desiccation are starting in Ward County, while other counties are still a while from desiccating. Yield expectations are average to slightly above average. Some lodging has been reported around the area.



[Brenden Klebe](#)

Bottineau County Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent

NORTHWEST ND

In the past 14 days rainfall across Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams County ranged from 0.31 in southeast Mountrail County to 1.59 inches in southeast Williams County. There were areas near Watford City that received greater than 2 inches of rainfall. The greatest rainfall has been along the northerly side of the Missouri River and southwestern part of McKenzie County.

Drought in the northwest part of North Dakota improved substantially compared to the last newsletter. As of September 17th, about 40% of McKenzie County towards the southwest corner of the county was in D3 (extreme drought) status. Most of the remainder of McKenzie and the southwest tail of Mountrail and a very small southern part of Williams Counties were in D2 (severe drought). About the southern 25% of Williams and Mountrail Counties were in D1 (moderate drought) status. Most of Mountrail and Williams Counties were in D0 (abnormally dry) now. All of Divide and most of Burke Counties are no longer in drought status!

There are still a few fields of hard red spring wheat (HRSW), canola, and flax to harvest in McKenzie County.

Only about 65% of HRSW and durum has been harvested in Divide County yet with yields ranging from 35 to 60 bushels/A and no reports of sprouting yet in the non-harvested HRSW compared to farther east in the area. Only about 50% of canola has been harvested in Divide County with yields ranging from 1,300 to 2,000 + pounds/A, however what remains is shattering and yields will be lower when harvest resumes. There are still lentils and dry peas to harvest yet in Divide County. Flax looks good, is ripening, and some has already been desiccated.

Most dryland corn in McKenzie County will not be harvested for grain with yield estimates at 20 to 50 bushels/A. Most of the dryland corn will be grazed and some chopped for silage. Dryland corn in Divide County looks good and is still green. McKenzie County irrigated corn is looking good at the moment with some corn having been chopped for silage.

Soybean and dry bean are almost ready to harvest in McKenzie County and other areas that were dry. Soybean plants are dropping leaves in most Divide County fields.

Sunflowers are looking pretty good in most of the region with sunflowers farther south in the region starting to dry down while sunflowers in the north are dropping heads with some starting to turn yellow.

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SOUTH-CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ND

Rainfall for all NDAWN stations in the SC and SE ND Counties over the past two weeks ranged from 0.14 inch near Skogmo to 2.12 inches near Jud. Nearly all NDAWN stations south of a diagonal line starting in southeast Traill and Steele Counties and going through most of Barnes County, the southeast corner of Stutsman County, much of Logan County and into the southwest part of Emmons County received greater than 1 inch of rainfall in the past two weeks. Areas north of this line received less rainfall with much of Burleigh, Eddy, Kidder, Sheridan and Wells Counties receiving less than 0.5 inch of rainfall.

The major issue across much of the region continues to be the intense drought in the eastern third of the region. As of September 17th, all of Cass County, nearly all of Barnes, Griggs, Ransom, Richland, Steele, and Traill Counties and a small northeast part of LaMoure and Sargent Counties were in D3 (extreme) drought intensity. The remaining parts of Barnes, Griggs, Richland, Steele, and Traill Counties, most of Burleigh (western half), Foster, Sargent and Sheridan (western 60%) Counties, the southeast part of Eddy County, the eastern 30% of Stutsman, and small parts of Emmons, LaMoure and Dickey Counties were in D2 (severe) drought intensity. All of Wells and Kidder Counties and the remaining parts of Burleigh, Eddy, most of Emmons, Foster, Sargent, and Stutsman Counties and parts of Dickey, LaMoure, Logan, and McIntosh Counties were at D1 (moderate) drought intensity. Most of Dickey, Logan and McIntosh Counties and parts of Emmons and LaMoure Counties were at D0 (abnormally dry) drought intensity. About 30% of Dickey County, in the south-central part, has no drought conditions.

Figure 1 shows a nearly dry slough a few miles west of Cooperstown of which I've never seen this dry before.

The departure from the normal average daily air temperatures over the past two weeks range from -3°F near Wing to only +1°F from Barnes County and to the east. Most areas

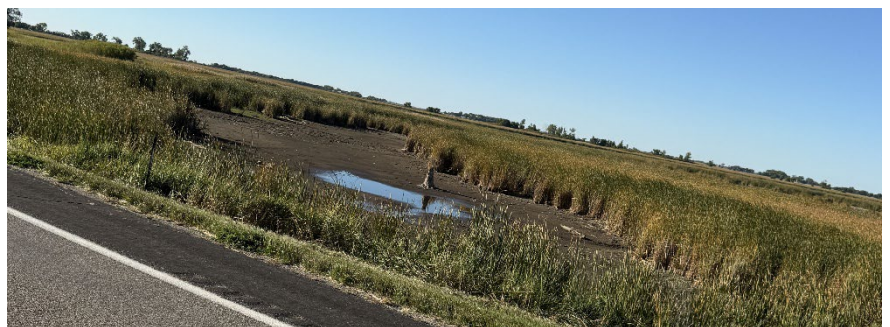


Figure 1. A nearly dry slough a few miles west of Cooperstown that is usually full of water.

across the region have been at normal average daily air temperature. The daily low temperatures were slightly above normal while the daily high temperatures were slightly below normal across most of the region.

The best crop news for the region is that all or nearly all corn, soybean, and sunflower crops have or will reach maturity before any chance of freezing temperatures since no freezing temperatures are forecasted for the region through the end of September. Based upon the seven NDAWN locations of Denhoff, Edgeley, Jamestown, Linton, Mayville, McHenry, and Mooreton, I've been reporting on over the last several weeks, all locations have achieved at least 2,076 growing degree days (GDD's) with a planting date of May 13th, meaning any corn hybrid of 85 days or less should be at black layer (physiological maturity) now across the region.

Another noticeable issue at least north of Interstate 94 and east of Sheridan County is crown rot and stalk rot in corn. In the last newsletter, I mentioned starting to see a few plants dying prematurely from crown rot, but I didn't notice too many plants in fields at that time. In my last scouting efforts, crown rot and stalk rot were visible at Griggs County corn fields at higher frequencies. Crown rot is first visible when plants start turning a grayish to white color as seen in Figure 2. As time progresses the pith inside the stalk (stem) disintegrates and stalks begin to fall over as seen in Figure 3.

Yet another potential issue is soybean diseases. Many dry-season soybean diseases can be found in most soybean fields across the region with anthracnose likely being the most frequent. Hopefully there will be little soybean yield loss across the region due to these diseases.

In the past two weeks more weeds have been mowed along field perimeters. Thank you for getting these weeds mowed. Weed management starts along the field perimeter.

Nearly all hard red spring wheat and durum has been harvested across the region now with nearly no fusarium head blight or DON issues reported this season. Hurray!

Corn condition declined rapidly in the past week due to crown rot. Most corn in the region has no milk line or has reached black layer (physiological maturity). Corn grain harvest has begun at least in Sheridan and Richland Counties and likely some other southeastern counties. I've heard no yield or moisture reports yet with the few acres that have been harvested.

Soybean condition declined again since the last newsletter due to diseases and drought with most soybeans south of



Figure 2. Notice the three grayish-colored plants dying prematurely due to crown rot.

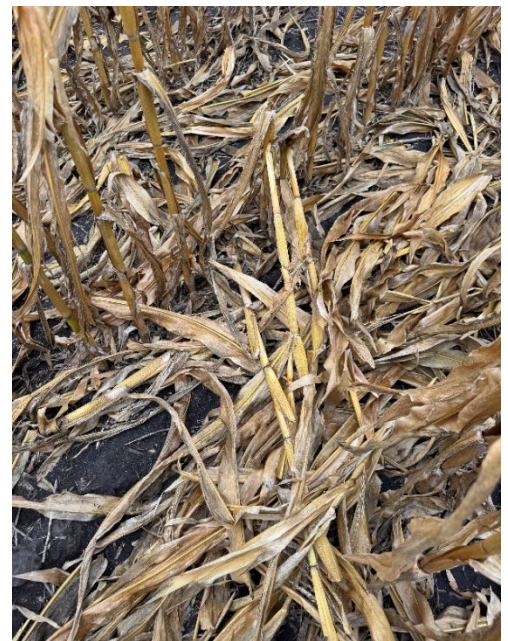


Figure 3. Corn stalks completely broken due to crown rot and stalk

Highway 200 being nearly ready to harvest as seen in figure 6. Soybean harvest has begun in most counties south of Highway 200. Early yield reports across the region range from 15 to 40 bushels/A with moistures in the low teens. Soybean seed size is from small to normal size with green seeds present in some samples.

Most canola has been harvested across the region, except the north central part of the region in which fields still need to be harvested starting in Griggs County. Canola yields likely will be much lower for these remaining fields due to shattering.

Over 50% of dry beans have been harvested across the region. One farmer reported dry bean yields within the same field from 0 to 3,000 pounds per acre with a field average slightly below actual production history (APH). Later planted dry bean fields still have green leaves and plants yet.

Sunflowers are still looking good across the entire region at least from the road. I have started observing some pretty dark plants in areas of some fields, but I'm unsure of the cause at this point in time. No sunflowers have been harvested yet in the region, however about 40% of sunflower fields have been desiccated in Steele County and this is likely the case for areas on the eastern edge of the region. Birds may become an issue yet for sunflower fields, but hopefully damage will be limited.



Figure 6. A soybean field in Griggs County ready to harvest as of September 22, 2026.

Sugarbeet yields are below normal in areas of drought conditions, but sugar content was higher than average at least prior to the rain that occurred last week.

Now that many farmers have started harvesting, please think about proper safety before leaving the house and if needed, seek any necessary mental health assistance.

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SOUTHWEST ND

It has been a tough growing season for us around the state with the general lack of moisture, especially here in the southwest. However, we keep moving forward and take some comfort in the rain we've received in the past couple of weeks. Some spots of Adams County received up to ½ an inch of rain while areas in Mercer County are going on 3 weeks without any measurable moisture. Small grains and canola harvest is mostly wrapped up in the region, and winter wheat is starting to be planted in some fields. Hopefully we will get some more moisture this fall to get the wheat off to a good start.



Corn smut along field edges in Adams County.

Corn looks surprisingly good in some areas. Stalks are short and skinny, but the ears look pretty good on most plants. There was quite a bit of corn smut along field edges. Over west in Bowman County, about 50% of the corn has been chopped for silage. Places that received moisture look better, but the dryer spots are suffering.

Soybeans look mediocre. Plants are short, and in some places, the pods that are there are filling up nicely. As you go further southwest, we are anticipating some failed soybean fields. Sunflowers are highly variable

in the area, with some fields totally desiccated with short plants and small heads, and other fields still very green with larger heads and yellow petals. This could be due to planting date, land position, and whether or not plants received these last shots of rain. Pinto beans look good in the northern part of the region. So far, no corn, soybeans, or flowers have been harvested yet. Corn will likely be approaching black layer soon, and there are reports of spraying for sunflower weevil up in Mercer County.



Sunflowers in Adams County affected by strong winds.

Folks are baling some sorghum sudan forage while others are directly grazing it. Nitrates are high in more drought-impacted regions, so testing is recommended to determine whether the forage should be mixed.



Corn ears look relatively normal despite previous drought stress.



Corn plants are short and skinny, but the ears are relatively normal looking.

In addition to winter wheat, fall cover crops are also getting seeded in some spots. Cover crops won't emerge without any

moisture, but in this case, we must be patient. One good rain will get them started. In Dickinson, our cover crops planted in August took several weeks to finally emerge as we waited for rain. Now with the cooler temperatures and lower evaporative stress, the cover crops are doing okay, despite the moisture deficit.

Temperatures are getting lower and the plants seem to be much less stressed now. Cooler temperatures mean less evapotranspiration, so the plants are able to use whatever moisture they receive without losing so much so quickly. This should give the plants a much-needed break and help move our final crops along through grain fill and senescence.

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