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Managing Slow-Growing Crops and Grass

Articles regarding unfavorable weather, like the one to the right, are appearing in most publications. The point is, according to CCA Joe Dedman, "These conditions cause all fertility products, whether liquid or dry, to be processed more slowly due to soil and air temperatures."

Even though your plants are not growing, they are aging. From the inception of germination they are steadily progressing toward maturity. Even though you may be losing size, you can still maintain yield on row crops if you can manage the nutritional needs of the plant. "When temperatures are lower than normal, the metabolic rate of plants is decreased. As a result these plants will assimilate all nutrients at a slower pace. Further slowing down the process is the rate at which dry fertilizers break down, react, and integrate within the soil environment. Dedman says, "Even foliar applications are translocated throughout the plant at a much slower rate. Products like Monty's, though, which are a true plant food, do not have to be converted and can be absorbed and taken throughout the plant."

The weather trend over the next several weeks will be more reminiscent of mid-March than mid-May. You should expect to see crop height and color vary dramatically compared to 'normal' growing conditions. Dedman added, "If you do elect to add a foliar feeding program, you can contribute to the metabolism and over-all condition of the plant. When the temperatures do warm up, the plant can respond quickly and overcome the stress it is currently enduring most effectively." Even if you do not see the rapid response you might see under optimal conditions, you can still manage your crops during these cool periods with foliar feeding and push them closer toward your ultimate yield goals.

Yield may still be affected by unseasonable weather patterns but Monty's Program can help you realize your fullest production potential. The economics of Monty's Foliar Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners allow you the flexibility to respond at any growth stage. By beginning now, you can best manage your pastures or crops from early development through maturity and respond quickly to any source of stress. Dedman concluded, "Monty's Foliar Fertilizers and Soil Conditioner are a great management tool to control stress on your crop throughout the season."

Spring Chills Ahead

Reprinted from agriculture.com

Recent and forecast rains are getting all the attention — especially on the CBOT trading floor — but it's the temperatures, not precipitation, that will be the biggest weather challenge in much of the nation's midsection moving through the weekend and into next week, according to Freese-Notis Weather, Inc. It's not good news for planting progress or early crop germination.



"What is still most impressive about the weather pattern going into the middle of May is how cold it will be. Saturday highs may not get out of the 40s in the far northwestern Corn Belt, and we may see something similar for areas near the Great Lakes on Sunday and in the extreme eastern Corn Belt for Monday," according to Freese-Notis on Thursday. "The bottom line is that it is a forecast that is not conducive for widespread planting, and is a forecast that suggests that corn that has gotten planted (or will get planted) will be very slow to emerge due to upcoming exceptionally cold conditions."



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