

# Burrus BUZZ

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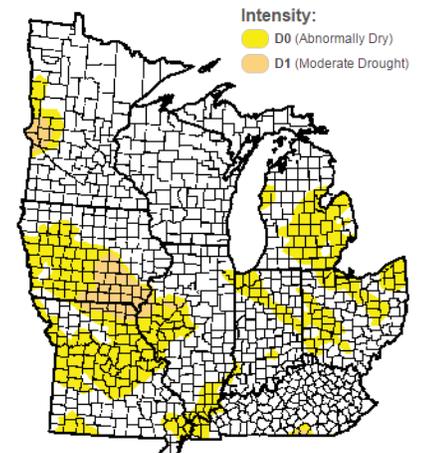
## What Weather Can Corn Tolerate?

by Josh Gunther, Burrus Product Lead

Some of the main concerns on growers' minds this summer have been, "how dry is too dry?" and "what should I expect this fall?". The question about what to expect this fall is difficult to answer without a crystal ball. However, the question regarding how dry is too dry we can try to answer.

We all know that heat and water stress in the days leading up to and during pollination can be a very bad thing. Heat will typically cause the plant to shed its pollen more quickly while drought stress will tend to delay the silks. If you are getting both heat and drought stress at the same time, it can be devastating. When pollen is shed early and the silks are delayed, the plants can miss their nick and you won't have pollen and silks at the same time. As we know from basic biology, if we don't have pollen in contact with the silks, there can be no kernels.

During the early vegetative growth stages (V1 - V12) with the corn plant showing drought symptoms (curling leaves) for four consecutive days, you will only lose around 10% of the maximum yield. This yield loss is a result of the corn plant determining its potential ear size during these periods. With the same four consecutive days of drought symptoms, this yield loss increases to 10 - 25% during tassel emergence and can reach up to 50% during silk emergence and pollen shedding, with yield losses typically due to poor pollination. Four consecutive days of drought stress symptoms during blister stage can cause aborted kernels. These kernels are typically close to the tip of the ear and have been fertilized, but never fill. This can result in 30 to 40% yield reduction. The last stage that drought stress can impact corn yields is at dough stage. Four consecutive days of drought stress symptoms can result up to a 30% yield loss.



Via: National Drought Mitigation Center

All of this being said, we aren't out of the game yet. There is still time for rains to come across the area to help save the crops. Don't give up hope.

*Comments or questions for our Agronomic Research Team?*

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