

Farm and Weather Summary

David Haden, superintendent
Northwest Research Farms

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours: There were 12 events held at the Northwest Farms, Sutherland and Doon. A total of 823 people attended the field days and tours.

New Projects: Long-term rotation study, Palle Pedersen; Eggshells for liming experiment, Paul Kassel; Poly-coated urea study, Randy Killorn; Soybean aphid management, Joel DeJong; Potassium rate study, Pedro Barbagelata.

Crop Season Comments

Sutherland. Corn planting began May 3 and was completed May 29. Harvest began October 16 and was completed October 27 with average yields of 154 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 22 and was completed June 11. Harvest began September 25 and was completed October 14 with average yields of 37 bushels/acre.

Doon. Corn was planted May 16. Harvest began October 14 and was completed October 20 with average yields of 160 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting began May 27 and was completed May 28. Harvest began October 6 and was completed October 8 with average yields of 36 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2002-2003: Below average snowfall and above normal temperatures made this winter more mild than 2001-2002.

Spring 2003: We began with a full soil moisture profile. Fieldwork began March 28. Oats were planted April 2. Several small rains and below normal temperatures extended planting into June.

Summer 2003: Growing conditions were excellent with normal rainfall and below normal temperatures through July. From July 22 through September 9 rainfall totaled 0.52 in. However, temperatures remained below normal. Some producers sprayed for soybean aphids.

Fall 2003: Corn yields were better than expected. Harvest moistures were generally below 15%. The combination of dry weather and soybean aphids limited soybean yield.

Table 1. Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Sutherland, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2003.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90 ⁰ or above
	2003	Deviation from normal	2003	Deviation from normal	
March	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April	1.78	-0.72	49.7	3.6	0
May	3.80	0.05	56.7	-2.4	0
June	8.12	3.67	66.8	-2.0	0
July	5.51	1.93	71.4	-1.7	2
August	0.44	-3.33	72.0	-0.1	6
September	2.24	-0.90	59.0	-2.1	0
October	<u>0.69</u>	<u>-1.39</u>	51.2	<u>2.4</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	22.58	-0.69		-2.3	8

Table 2. Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Doon, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2003.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90 ⁰ or above
	2003	Deviation from normal	2003	Deviation from normal at Rock Rapids	
March	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April	1.94	-0.50	46.7	-0.3	0
May	3.98	1.04	57.0	-2.4	0
June	3.07	-1.01	67.3	1.9	1
July	2.86	-0.45	73.0	-1.1	6
August	0.55	-3.24	73.4	2.0	10
September	5.30	2.32	57.6	-3.5	2
October	<u>0.65</u>	<u>-1.25</u>	43.1	<u>-0.7</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	18.35	-3.09		-7.9	19