

Strong winds and hail in May damage corn and soybeans

MANHATTAN — Unusually strong winds and hail during May in some parts of Kansas may have damaged some of the state's young corn and soybean plants, a Kansas State University agronomy professor said.

"After this kind of weather, it's important for farmers to get out and assess the impact, if any, on corn and soybeans," said Dale Fjell, a crop production specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Kansas climatologist Mary Knapp confirmed that May was windier than usual at most weather recording spots throughout the state. In addition, hail plagued important agricultural areas such as Sumner County in south central Kansas, Cheyenne County in extreme northwest Kansas, and both Washington and Republic counties in the north central part of the state.

"If a corn plant lost a few leaves, but continues to show new growth

from its stem, the weather did not kill the growing point, and the plant should survive and have some yield," Fjell said. "The yield might be reduced, but corn plants typically have around 20 leaves. So, if a plant has lost six or eight leaves, it's probably not damaged badly enough to consider replanting."

"If there's no growth out of the stem, however, but tillers start coming out near the ground, then you probably aren't going to have a productive plant."

When a particular field looks damaged enough to consider other options, such as replanting to corn or another crop, it's important to keep in mind if a herbicide has already been applied and how late in the season it is. In some areas it's getting a little late to replant corn, he added.

When assessing soybeans, it is important to look at where the cotyledons are attached to the stem, Fjell

said. Cotyledons are specialized leaves on the plant. The point at which they are attached (nodes) are critical growing points on a soybean plant.

If damage occurred below the nodes where the cotyledons are attached, the plant likely will die. If leaves were knocked off above the nodes, but the stem is still intact, he said, the leaves will grow back and the plant should yield with little loss.

Often times strong winds such as those Kansans experienced during May are associated with storms, Knapp said. But much of the windy weather this year occurred on days with no rain.

For photos that show hail damage to a soybean plant, interested persons can access the K-State Research and Extension Soybean Scene Web site: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/soybeanscene/june22.htm>.

So, how windy was May in Kansas?

MANHATTAN — Kansas, like other prairie states, has always had its share of windy weather, but recent weeks have been unusually so, compared with long-term averages, said Kansas climatologist Mary Knapp.

"Goodland had just six days during May when the wind averaged less than 10 miles per hour," said Knapp, who is in charge of the state's Weather Data Library, housed at Kansas State University Research and Extension. Wind in the northwest Kansas community averaged 13.4 miles per hour during May—above the 13 mph average recorded over the 1948-1990 period. On May 11 alone, the wind in Goodland

“ Goodland had just six days during May when the wind averaged less than 10 miles per hour.”

— Mary Knapp, climatologist

averaged 29.1 mph, peaking at 67 mph.

Concordia in north central Kansas had average wind speeds during May of 12.6 mph, just under its 13 mph historical average. On May 29, however, its wind speed averaged 23 mph, and the highest single wind speed recorded there during May was 53 mph.

Dodge City in southwest Kansas recorded an average May wind

speed of 15.6 mph, up from the long-term average of 14.6 mph.

"The highest wind gust this May occurred on the 21st during the early morning hours when the speed reached a peak of 63 mph," said a report by the National Weather Service office in Dodge City. The National Weather Service also reported that May was the driest May on record for Dodge City.

Pre-need funeral arrangements gaining popularity with many

By PHILL KLINE
Consumer Corner

Dear Attorney General Phill Kline:

I recently read an article regarding the rising cost of funerals.

Though I had taken out a life insurance policy many years ago to cover this expense, I am starting to worry that the policy is no longer sufficient. Should I make "pre-need" arrangements now to guarantee my loved ones aren't left the unexpected financial burden of covering my funeral?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Pre-need funeral arrangements are increasing in popularity due to the fact that many individuals are taking a more active role in planning and paying for their own funeral before their time of death. While pre-need planning has its advantages, it is important to under-

stand the difference between pre-arrangement and pre-paying to make an educated decision on what is best for you and your loved ones.

Pre-planning allows you and your family to plan a funeral preceding death. By so doing you are able to:

1. Make an informed decision on the type of service you wish to have

without the distress of your recent loss; 2. Compare prices at area funeral homes; 3. Get an estimate of how much the funeral you would like would cost today, remembering inflation may cause the price to change. Many funeral homes and cemeteries offer this service as a courtesy. However, you should ask whether or not there will be a charge

for this service at the time you call to set up your appointment.

Pre-paying for funeral expenses may be done in a variety of ways, all of which should be fully understood before signing any type of contract. Pre-arranged funeral agreement: A pre-arranged funeral agreement gives the purchaser full control of the money and can only

be withdrawn prior to death by that person. The money is placed into a bank, credit union or savings and loan association in the name of the purchaser and the seller. Once a verified statement and certified copy of a death certificate is furnished to the financial institution, the institution will allow the seller to withdraw the amount of the fu-

neral bill.

Insurance: If you plan on purchasing an insurance product to cover the expense of a funeral, take into consideration whether the pre-arranged funeral contract is guaranteed. If not, inflation may cause prices to increase beyond the amount of the policy leaving a balance due at the time of death.

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'Love you too'

Charter school 'spy eyes' focus of school board

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The charter school and surveillance cameras at the high school were the focus of Monday night's Colby School Board meeting.

Diana Wieland, the district curriculum director, updated the board on the progress for the school. She said the state is making decisions now on how much money will be given this fall for charter schools.

So far, she said 10 districts have acknowledged they will be going ahead with their charters and four others haven't yet indicated their plans.

Wieland said how much money Colby will get for its first year this

cameras at the high school. Kraus said they will close look at the system. High School and Ran School board president Molstad wanted to cameras could be placed.

Kraus said they will not only to begin will later expand to interior because of the parking lot, and driving and keeping exterior doors to keep authorized from getting in.

Middle school principal Ross said they're fine and are getting free

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