

# ***Extension Responds: Flood***

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## **Herbicides, Rain, and Replanting**

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In early June, I thought we would be okay with most of the previously applied preemergence corn herbicides. However, after another week and another four to seven inches of rain, there are certainly more questions.

- 1) Have herbicides leached deeper in the soil profile? This is especially a possibility in coarse textured soils.
- 2) Has some of the herbicide been lost from the field due to surface run-off and erosion? Overall, I suspect this should have limited effect with the exception of where channels were made. In the channels, the soil with herbicide is likely gone. If weeds germinate in the channel, they may not be controlled.
- 3) Is the rest of the herbicide still in the field and in the upper soil profile? I hope most of the applied herbicides are still in place. However, it's probably wise to start spot checking fields for herbicide performance in another week to see if any re-treatment or follow-up cultivation is needed.

Some cornfields have been lost because of the flooding. Some seed cornfields are lost because the second inbred could not be planted on schedule. As a result, farmers are considering options for replanting. If preemergence corn herbicides have been applied, follow the replant or rotational intervals for these products. There are two reasons for these intervals. First, the corn herbicide could injure a different crop if planted. Second, the corn herbicide may cause illegal residues to occur in the replanted crop. The bottom line is that you must follow the restrictions on the herbicide label. It's the law.

A full list of rotational restrictions is summarized in Appendix 2 of the Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crop bulletin (A3646). In most cases, I suspect that soybeans are the crop being considered as the replant option, but I also listed alfalfa, snap beans, and sweet corn as other crops in case forage or vegetable contracts were being considered. In most cases, the best option is to replant corn if a corn herbicide has been applied already. Do not make another application of the herbicide. Rather, plant the corn no-till or use shallow tillage to avoid diluting the remaining herbicide.

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