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Corn

Much of the corn is tasselling and silking. After the corn has fully tasseled, we can apply fungicides and this is also a good time to take tissue samples to have analyzed for nutrient content. We have been finding small amounts of japanese beetles in many of the fields we have been scouting, but only a couple that have been bad enough to spray an insecticide. They will feed on the silks causing poor pollination and ultimately lower yields. We have started seeing common rust in a few fields which we continue to monitor. With the hail damage that much of our area has had in the previous weeks, this has made the corn more susceptible to disease infection. The dry weather has forced many farmers to irrigate earlier than originally planned. In a few places with dryland corn, the plants have been drought stressed for a while trying to pollinate. These fields will have lower than anticipated yields.

Soybeans

Many of the early planted beans are at R1 or R2 (beginning bloom and full bloom respectively). Several of the double-crop soybeans have been hindered by the dry spell we have had, causing poor or uneven emergence. Thankfully, soybean plants are very forgiving and compensate for uneven emergence. Most fields have grape colaspis feeding (a minor pest that rarely is bad enough to justify spraying). Bean leaf beetles are also present in many and will do much more damage than grape colaspis. A lot of the beans have herbicide injury, but should grow out of it fine.