

PLANTING : STAGE "Two"

Planting season is currently underway, slow, but moving forward. Above average rainfall (torrential in some areas) and below normal nighttime temperatures have prevented many do-it-yourselfers from getting on their fields. Some landowners have enjoyed good germination while others suffered some losses due to hard overnight frosts. Mother Nature does in fact usually hold the most important cards.

Don't be discouraged. For one thing, it is not too late. Most grain crops require the soil to steadily rise in order to have successful germination. Those warm nights have eluded most of Michigan. Last week while I was in the UP the trees had not yet fully leafed out. Morning temperatures were 35 degrees. Just this past Saturday, Petoskey enjoyed a pretty good frost. Bad for those pesky black flies!

The seed that you have received from the chapter is unique in that it is not a typical 120-day maturity requirement. I would say that this year will be one that simply requires patience. Plant your food plots when you can. It's the best we can all do given our very busy lives. Habitat, for me, is the most enjoyable task in the spring. Don't let it become a stressful event.

Sorghum and pumpkins do best when the soil warms up. Cool season clovers and alfalfa's do great in the wet spring. Sunflowers and corn all require warm, humid days and nights. We're just not quite there yet.

My best recommendations for the time being- just be patient.