



Corn & Soybean Planting

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go

April 29, 2025

The CCE and WAC Team have been out again this week measuring soil temperatures to assess progress toward good planting conditions. We measured soil temperatures on Tuesday morning, April 29, at multiple sites across Delaware County. The morning was warm and sunny, and soil conditions were generally favorable in most fields. Valley fields seemed to be a little cooler than hillside and hill tops this week, but most fields were near or at the 50° goal.

We suggest starting corn planting when:

- soil conditions are dry and suitable for good planter function
- soil temperature is above 50°
- and the 5-7-day forecast is for continued warm weather

This week's soil temperatures averaged 50°, and the 10-day forecast is for highs in the 60's and lows near 50, so corn and soybean planting can proceed when soil conditions are favorable for planting.

The chart on below shows the soil temperature measured on April 29.

Plant Population

A good plant population is critical for optimum yield. Corn grain fields on loamy fields should shoot for a harvest population of 28,000 to 30,000 plants/acre, for silage bump to up to 32,000. On droughty/gravelly fields reduce by 2,000 or 3,000 plants per acre. These are recommendations for harvest population, you should plan on about 90% emergence, so dropping around 32,000 seeds per acre for grain, and about 35,000 for silage.

Planting Depth

For early planted corn and conditions with good moisture, a planting depth of 1½ to 2 inches is recommended, if planting later into dry soils corn can be planted 2 to 3 inches if necessary to plant into moist soil. Planting shallow (less than 1½ in) to hope for quick emergence is tempting, but shallow planting makes plants more susceptible to herbicide injury, pulling by crows, and reduces good rooting depth for the seedling.

Plant Early – Prepare for Hay Harvest

Corn planting and first cutting frequently compete for attention in mid-May. If the weather continues to cooperate, this could be a year to get some corn in before hay harvest also demands attention.

Stay Safe and enjoy the spring.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Delaware County

Watershed Agricultural Council
nycwatershed.org



Delaware County Soil Temperature				April 28, 2025	
Township	Elevation	Aspect	Cover	Sample Time	Soil Temp (°F@ 2")
Andes	1530	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:00	52
Bloomville	1490	Valley Floor	sod	9:45	52
Colchester	1095	Valley Floor	corn stubble	7:25	48
Davenport	1240	Valley Floor	tilled	7:35	44
Davenport	1250	Valley Floor	corn stubble	8:40	53
Davenport	1295	Valley Floor	cover crop	7:20	45
Franklin	1250	Valley Floor	tilled	8:55	51
Franklin	1700	Hilltop	cover crop	9:15	52
Franklin	1780	East	tilled	8:58	53
Hamden	1500	East	cover crop	7:45	50
Kortright	1420	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:15	51
Kortright	1500	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:25	48
Kortright	1560	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:25	49
Kortright	1560	Valley Floor	Sod	8:30	47
Kortright	1800	Hilltop	tilled	7:45	48
Kortright	1910	West	tilled	8:00	47
Kortright	2070	South West	corn stubble	7:30	44
Middletown	1575	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:35	55
Middletown	1890	Hilltop	cover crop	8:55	55
Roxbury	1860	West	sod	10:20	50
Roxbury	1900	Hilltop	sod	10:25	52
Sidney	1017	Valley Floor	tilled	8:00	47
Sidney	1017	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:00	45
Stamford	1496	Valley Floor	cover crop	7:50	47
Stamford	1496	Valley Floor	sod	7:55	47
Stamford	1496	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:05	48
Stamford	1496	Valley Floor	cover crop	8:10	49
Stamford	1710	North East	cover crop	9:55	49
Stamford	1890	North East	cover crop	10:15	52
Stamford	2100	South	sod	10:48	52
Tompkins	1200	Valley Floor	cover crop	7:00	44