



MILLE LACS SOIL SERVICE ASSN. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FSA DATES, DEADLINES, OR MESSAGES

As 2026 planting is underway, we want to remind farmers that your certification maps are printed and can be picked up at the office or emailed out to you if you want to complete them as you go along.

Please swing into the office or call ahead so we can have them prepared for pickup. When you are done planting, please make a point to come and certify your acres as soon as possible to avoid the last-minute rush that always happens in July. You'll be happy to have this annual task completed early!

2025 corn and soybeans that are currently stored are still eligible for FSA's Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs). If you need some additional cash flow and have grain on hand, this could be an option for you. The deadline to apply for 2025 corn and soybeans MALs is May 31, 2026.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A guy goes to confession and says, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. On Friday, I went golfing, and I used the "F" word

"The Priest says, "Tell me about it, my son."

The man says, "I was on the first tee, and I shanked a shot wide left."

The Priest says, "Oh, you must have said it then."

The man said, "No, because the ball went into the woods, hit a tree, and bounced back right in the middle of the fairway."

The Priest replies, "And then what happened?"

The man said, "I hit my second shot, and the ball went wide right."

The Priest replied, "So that's when you said it?"

The man says, "No, because my shot hit the ball washer machine on the next hole, popped up, and wound up right in the rough."

So the Priest says, "Oh, so that's when you said it, then."

"No, because I took my wedge and hit it, and it wound up on the green, about 6 inches from the cup," replied the man.

There's silence for a while, and then the Priest says, "Don't tell me you missed that f-ing putt..."

MAY 2026

DO YOU SEE PURPLE IN YOUR CORN?

Oftentimes, we see some purple in the stalks and leaves of the corn. This could be a sign of low phosphorus, but more often it could be cool temperatures, soil that is too wet or too dry, compacted soil, herbicide damage, and root pruning by side dressing knives or cultivators. Acidic soil can also intensify phosphorus deficiency symptoms. We often see cold and wet springs when we are trying to plant, but if 7 of those items listed didn't happen, maybe it's just time for a soil test. Drop by the store, and our team would be happy to test it for you!

WHY IS COPPER IMPORTANT TO CORN?

Copper aids in the formation of lignin found in cell walls, which helps keep the plant upright and is important to seed set, stress resistance, and pollen production. Copper is generally used in small amounts by a crop. For example, in a 150 bushel corn crop, the nutrient uptake for copper was only .10/lbs/acre. High calcium content helps construct a weak stalk, the mechanism being the application of too much N and easy nitrogen access into the plant. This can tie up the copper that is so necessary to stalk strength. In short, levels of copper will help with lodging issues in all crops.

BORON MAKES IT BETTER!

Adequate levels of boron reduce missing seeds by moving seed growth hormones. For example, if your corn ear doesn't fill out all the way to the end, it may be short on boron. The challenge is boron leaching. So it's tough to build strong levels in your soil, especially in light sandy fields where annual rainfall or irrigation volumes are high.

Thank You For Choosing Mille Lacs Soil Service!

A QUICK REFERENCE TO NUTRIENTS.

NITROGEN (N) is one of the more mobile nutrients; this is your water uptake. N is taken up in the NO_3 & NH_4^+ forms and is used to synthesize amino acids.

PHOSPHATE (P) stimulates roots and flowers, and helps fruit development and overall crop maturity. P is necessary for energy transfer. The higher the clay content in soils, the more immobile it becomes. P is most readily available with pH levels between 6.5 and 7.0.

POTASSIUM (K) is essential for the transport of sugars and the formation of starches and oils. K helps regulate the opening and closing of a leaf's stomata, which is important for the efficiency of water uptake.

SULFUR (S) is a secondary element but is equally as crucial to healthy crop development. It is found in amino acids that make plant proteins. Sulfur has also been shown to increase the seed oil contents in soybeans. Sulfur aids in seed production and promotes nodules in legumes. The lack of sulfur results in small, slow growing plants.

CALCIUM (Ca) is king, although it is considered a secondary nutrient. Ca is responsible for nutrient uptake, it is required for the formation of new cells, and is present in cell walls. Calcium deficiency will show the effects of stunted growth, tip burn, and shedding of blossoms.

MAGNESIUM (Mg) is the Yin to the Yang of calcium, with a direct ratio of 1:1 movement in the soil. Mg is the central atom of chlorophyll. Mg aids in phosphate and nitrogen metabolism. Mg is also essential in early growth and uniform crop maturity.

PRUPLE CORN SYNDROME



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Mille Lacs Soil Service



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-Mille Lacs Soil Service Assn.