

## **MSU Grain Crops Update**

### **April 24, 2007**

#### **Dr. Erick Larson**

Many corn fields in the central and south Delta have some bright yellow leaves and twisted whorls appearing in the top of individual plants during the past couple of days. This phenomenon is relatively uncommon, but is referred to as “**twisted whorl syndrome.**” It is a problem closely correlated to the extreme temperature fluctuations our crop has endured during the past several weeks. Plants should grow out of this strange development relatively quick.

Despite being an environmental phenomenon, every field will not likely exhibit twisted whorl syndrome. Most fields showing these symptoms range from V5 to V7 growth stage (12-26 inches tall). Most cases have been reported in fields south of significant freeze damage (south of Highway 82). Hybrids may differ in response to this phenomenon as well. Although various herbicides applied postemergence may intensify injury or produce similar symptoms, the widespread problems I have seen and are being reported are likely primarily related to environmental conditions.

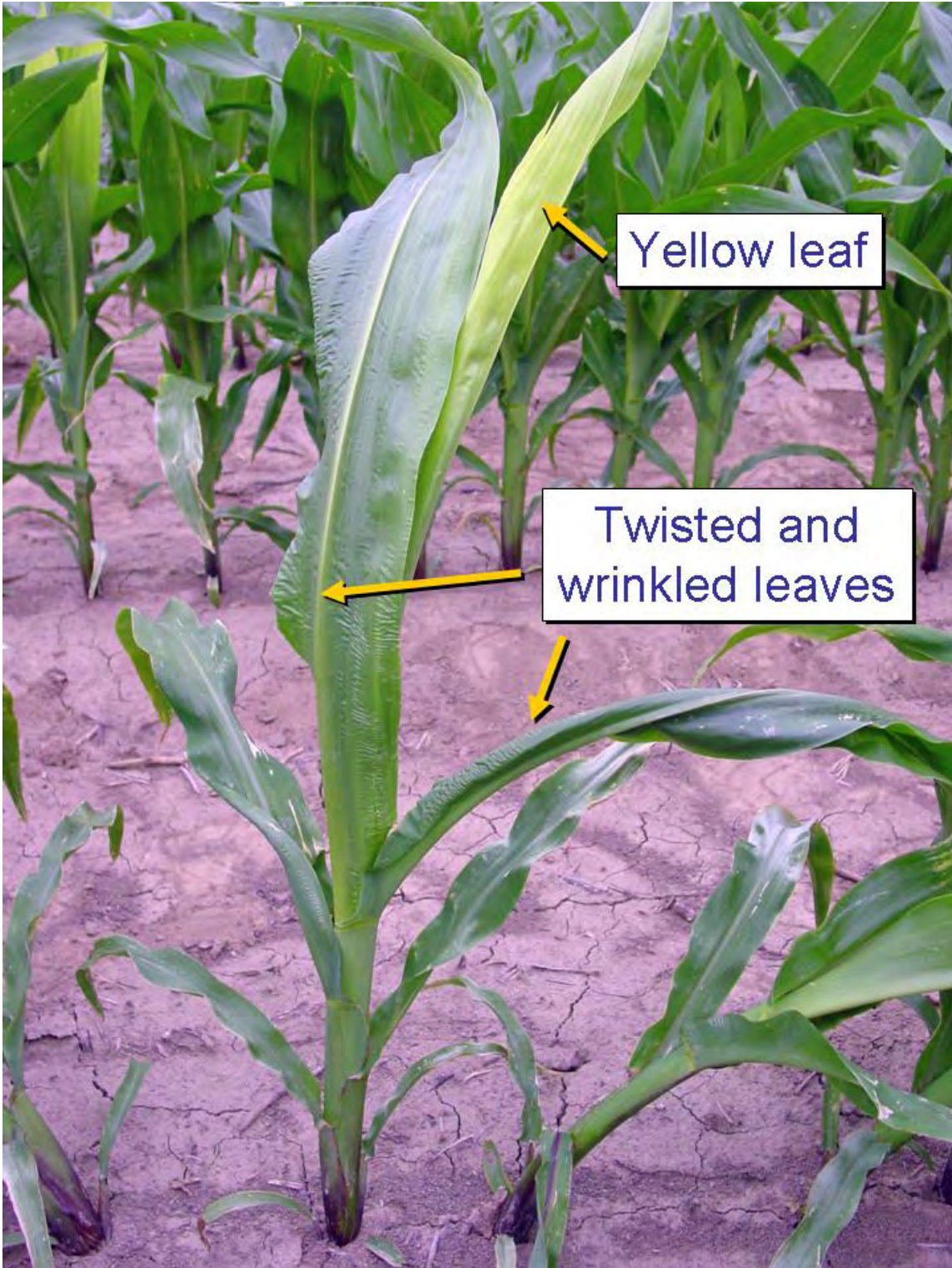
Wrapped, twisted leaves are above freeze damaged leaves (if present), indicating cool temperatures followed by recent warm, sunny weather are largely responsible for the problem.



New leaves emerging from the whorl are initially quite yellow because they have been wrapped up and shaded longer than normal. These leaves should regain their green color within a few days.



Thus, the only evidence remaining after a week or more will likely be some wrinkling on those leaves originally wrapped up.



Yellow leaf

Twisted and wrinkled leaves

To add your address to the Corn and/or Wheat email list, please send a request to: [elarson@pss.msstate.edu](mailto:elarson@pss.msstate.edu)



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