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**Later Planting Could Have an Impact on
This Year's Crop of Rootworms**

ST. LOUIS, May 21, 2008 – Cold and very wet weather conditions have persisted across much of the mid-south and the Midwest in recent weeks, delaying planting.

On top of these dismal weather conditions, lagging soil temperatures have also further delayed planting. Many Midwest farmers have now been forced into planting in May. This delayed planting can have an impact on the amount of insect pressure the corn crop experiences, especially from corn rootworms.

“Rootworm hatch dates are determined by heat-unit accumulations, so this cool, wet weather will delay corn rootworm hatch this year,” says Corby Jensen, Monsanto Corn Trait Technology Development Manager. “For those farmers who were able to plant early, the potential implications for those who use a conventional soil-applied insecticide program include the risk of the insecticide breaking down or leaching out of the active feeding zone of the corn rootworm larvae prior to hatch, resulting in less-than-effective rootworm control. Conversely, if it stays wet and heat units accumulate between now and when corn is actually planted, it will narrow the window between the time when the corn establishes itself and when rootworms hatch and start feeding. In this case, the corn's root system is less developed when the rootworms begin to actively feed, resulting in conventional corn hybrids being more susceptible to root feeding damage.”

Jensen notes that YieldGard VT Triple[®] can help protect against the uncertainty of the weather by providing farmers with greater consistency and improved in-plant insect protection, especially early in the season when the corn plant is most susceptible to rootworm feeding. YieldGard VT Triple in-plant insect control technology combines second-generation YieldGard VT Rootworm with Roundup Ready 2 technology and first-generation YieldGard[®] Corn Borer.

Jensen says that as long as corn planting isn't severely delayed, farmers can expect a more normal rootworm cycle, but only time will tell how the cold winter and cool wet spring conditions will impact the overall rootworm pressure this season.

Always follow grain marketing and IRM requirements and pesticide label directions. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® agricultural herbicides. YieldGard corn products are not yet registered in all states. Check with your Monsanto representative for the registration status in your state. YieldGard®, YieldGard VT Triple®, Roundup® and Roundup Ready® are trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. ©2008 Monsanto Company.

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