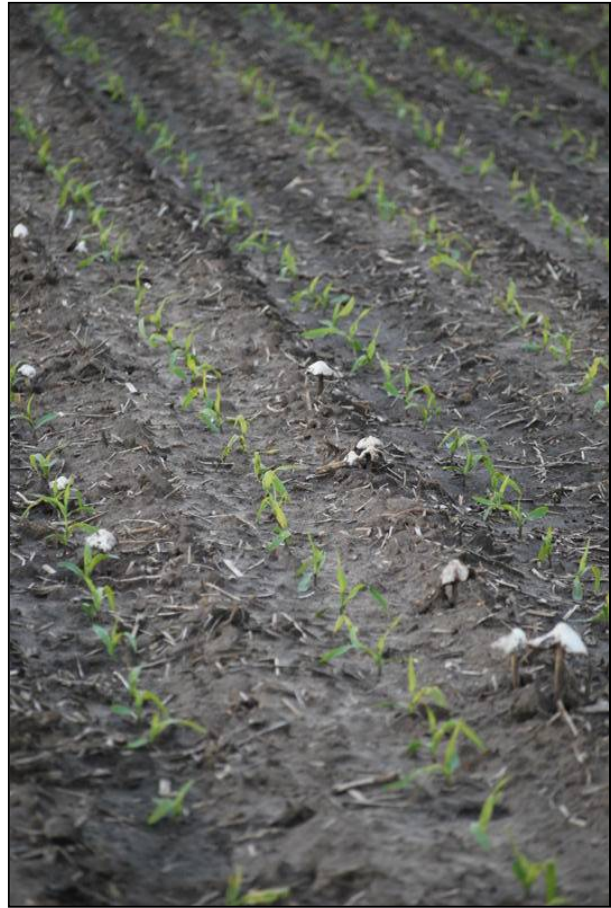


DO YOU HAVE MUSHROOMS IN YOUR FIELD?

One of our users in eastern Iowa sent us these photos of some mushrooms that first appeared in his corn field in Spring, 2010. He wanted to know if this was typical in fields that were treated with Chandler Crop Products, which he has used for the past few years, and if there are any adverse effects from the mushrooms.

We tend to find mushrooms in timbers where herbicides are not used. Also, we know that all types of soil fungi (including mushrooms) cannot make their own food and must feed on manure, dead vegetation, and other nonliving materials in the soil. So, mushrooms can grow in any place that has similar conditions. In the photo at the right, we can see that the crop residue from the previous season is almost completely decayed, and there is plenty of decayed material to feed the mushrooms.



Are there any adverse effects from the presence of the mushrooms in the corn field? The short answer to this question is a definite NO! In fact, we know that soil fungi serve many important roles in the soil such as the formation of soil humus, and these mushrooms are close relatives of the beneficial fungi. When used as recommended, the Chandler Crop Products help to stimulate and support all of these beneficial forms of biological activity in the soil, including microscopic organisms as well as mushrooms that can grow as big as your hand (see the photo at the left). The appearance of the mushrooms is a clear and favorable sign of the increased biological activity in this corn field.