

CROP NOTES for June 24, 2009

Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/info/crops.htm>

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

From May 1 to Present (about 3 days behind normal):

Nashua = 705 GDD (81 below normal)

Cedar Rapids = 784 GDD (64 below normal)

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

The summer forecast for Corn Belt is about as near ideal as possible suggesting a cooler than normal summer which helps both corn and soybean production.

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

El Nino is a possibility (not a forecast) by Mid-August, oppressively high temperatures are then avoided and corn and soybeans flourish. Midwest crops are “catching up” to normal with the warm weather and 2 warm weeks forecasted. Current hot and humid conditions are okay for the crops. Even though GDD calculation for corn only go up to 86F, 92F is ideal as long as soil moisture is not limiting.

INSECTS

European Corn Borer (ECB)

Moths flights of European Corn Borer are higher than normal. Corn that is non-Bt ECB is vulnerable to this pest once the corn reaches 17 inches tall (extended leaf height). After this stage, non-BT ECB corn should be scouted for signs of leaf feeding. The recent ICM News article covers scouting, thresholds and insecticide choices:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0617hodgsontolly2.htm>

Potato Leafhopper

Scout weekly until late August. Rainy weather slows this pest down, but it can re-populate quickly with the return of favorable weather. Scouting tips and photos are available in the 2009 ICM article at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm>

Soybean Aphid

The soybean aphid research trial near Decorah continues to show populations and infestation levels similar to those of 2007. Currently the plot has aphids on about 70% of the plants and averaging 6 aphids per plant. Those treatments in this research (planted May 4) that include an insecticide seed treatment are still aphid-free at this time. Recent University news from Wisconsin, Ohio and Ontario Canada have commented on higher infestations of aphids compared to 2007 and for some areas of the state to begin scouting (i.e. southeast and south-central Wisconsin), while the University of Illinois mentioned that aphid occurrence was minimal at this time. The hot 3-day 90+ F stretch of weather will temporarily slow down aphid development, but it should pick up again with the return of cooler temperatures. National aphid activity can be tracked by viewing the following USDA web site: http://sba.ipmPIPE.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi?host=All%20Legumes/Kudzu&pest=soybean_aphid

Western bean Cutworm

Soon the pheromone trap network across Iowa will be put in place. The network is a cooperative effort ISU Extension (supplies the pheromone & coordinates the internet reporting page) and volunteers across Iowa to monitor traps in July and early August. The internet reporting page is at: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/trap/westernbeancutworm/>

DISEASE

Soybean Rust Update

More soybean rust was found on soybeans in Louisiana, and on Kudzu in Texas. However, the weather has turned hot and dry therefore spread is not likely. Weekly scouting continues in this region. Wide-scale applications of fungicides for rust have not occurred except in the immediate and adjacent areas to the observations. Those beans (mostly R4 stage) are traditionally treated with fungicides for other diseases including Frogeye leaf spot. Dry weather continues in this region. ISU will monitor their sentinel plots on a weekly basis starting next week. Rust development can be monitored at the following USDA web site: <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>

Hail

We are coming up on 1 week since the hail storm the night of June 17. The ability of hail damaged crops to initiate new growth should now be visible. FYI, a nice article about hail on corn was recently provided in the ICM News, at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/061901.htm>

Some questions have been asked about fungicide use on hail damaged crops. The University of Illinois did some of this work with “simulated” hail damage on corn. The results of this study is included in the 2007 article at: <http://ipm.illinois.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=976>

EVENTS

June 25, North ISU Research Farm Field Day, Kanawha

9:30 to Noon. The program will include presentations on Corn Production Issues, Insect Management in 2009, New Soybean Traits, and Current Crop Production Concerns. Additional information will be provided as plans are finalized. The Field Day is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. CCA credits will be available for a nominal fee. Direct any questions about the field day to your County Extension Office, or George Cummins 641-228-1453.

July 17, Ag Professional Tour, Northeast ISU Research Farm, Nashua

9:30 am to Noon. The program will include observations and experiences related to current crop growth and development, soil fertility, and pest management problems as they develop across the area. This will include a wagon tour around the farm to view some of the crops and research in progress. Brian Lang and George Cummins, ISU Extension Agronomists, and Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent, will lead the discussions. 2.5 CCA credits applied form (anticipate 1 PM, 1 CM, 0.5 SW). A \$10 registration fee will be charged at the door (\$25 for CCA credits). Pre-registration is not required.

July 21, Howard County Experimental Farm Field Day, Saratoga

10:00 am to Noon. The program will include discussions of the on-farm experiments and current crop production, crop scouting and pest issues. The farm is on Hwy 9, just 3.5 miles west of Davis Corners (Jct Hwy 63 & Hwy 9), or 1.5 miles east of Saratoga. Free program, no pre-registration. Free CCA credits. Additional information provided in the next Crop Notes.

July 22, Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo, Boone

8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Many exhibits, equipment and informational programs.

For details, go to: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

July 23, Iowa Learning Farm / Howard SWCD Field Day, Max Schmidt Farm, Elma

More details soon.

July 29, Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day, Holland

10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Come for the morning, afternoon or both programs. Lunch provided.

10:00 to Noon, Topics include Kura clover cover crop in corn and soybean row-crop production, homemade strip-till implement, rainfall simulator and soil conservation discussed.

1:00 to 3:00, Topics include Beef grazing Kura clover and Reed canarygrass, and pasturing with late summer calving.

The farm is 400 acres, with 135 each in corn and soybeans and some living mulch. The rest is in forages with 55 acres of rotationally grazed Kura clover and Reed Canarygrass, 18 acres of traditional bluegrass pasture and 60 acres with 2 cuttings of hay and a third harvest by cows.

Has 79 cows with calving Aug. 15 to about Oct. 3. Plus 20 acres of CRP: 12 in buffer strips, 7 as pheasant and quail habitat and 1 acre windbreak. Directions: From the west edge of Holland by Remington Seed Plant go 2 miles west on D35 blacktop and 0.4 mile south on J Ave. Or from the intersection of D35 and T19 south of Wellsburg, go 4 miles to J Ave., then 0.4 miles south. Contact information: Fred and Vicki Abels, 20902 J Ave. Holland, IA 319-824-6428 farm50642@webtv.net

July-August, Farmland Leasing Meetings, Various Locations in Iowa

There are numerous Farmland leasing meetings offered across Iowa this summer, although only a few are close to northeast Iowa. Such as July 29 in Linn County and August 6 in Cerro Gordo County. A full list of counties, times, and locations is available at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings2.html>

July-September, Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics, Ames

The Field Extension Education Laboratory is a 43-acre teaching and demonstration facility dedicated to providing a hands-on learning experience for crop production professionals. The demonstration plots are used to show a wide range of management problems, solutions, and diagnostic challenges. "We make the mistakes on these plots so you won't in the future!" The clinics and programs are taught by Iowa State University staff and faculty and invited specialists from other institutions and industry. Modern, air-conditioned classroom facilities complement the in-field sessions, all of which are within walking distance. Current open programs for this summer include the following. Just click on the program title (Ctrl + Click) for details:

July 13-14, [Field Diagnostic Clinic](#)

July 15-16, [Crop Management Clinic](#)

Aug 25-27, [Iowa Drainage School](#)

September 2, [Alfalfa Production Clinic](#)

September 3, [Corn Disease Diagnostics and Management](#)

September 15, [Soil Management Clinic](#)

For other Agribusiness Education program information, check out the Homepage at:
<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/homepage.html>

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