

Crops Bulletin

June 18, 2009
Issue 30



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*Serving Clay, Buena
Vista, Dickinson,
Emmet, Kossuth, and
Palo Alto Counties*

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Asian Soybean Rust (ASR). Daren Mueller, ISU Plant pathologist, indicates that ASR is behaving differently this spring. Rust has shown up in Louisiana and Alabama— which has not been unusual. However, it has shown up several weeks earlier than in past years. Secondly, there has also been ample rain for ASR to increase spore production in these southern areas. Significant spore production and movement will need to occur in the next few weeks before ASR will pose a major threat to soybean in the upper Midwest. See

<http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/soybeanrust/> for more info.

More on summer forages. Previous issues have discussed some of the options for summer forage where alfalfa stands have been winter damaged. Steve Barnhart, ISU Agronomist indicates another option is annual ryegrass (also called Italian ryegrass) or perennial ryegrass. These ryegrasses are different than cereal rye or grain rye. The ryegrasses have relatively rapid seedling emergence and growth, and will add modestly to forage yield for the remainder of the season. They can have a summer dormancy limitation during hot, dry summers. The ryegrasses would not be expected to overwinter.

Corn borer. Erin Hodgson, ISU Entomologist, reports that Iowa and Nebraska entomologists have found higher levels of corn borer moths this year compared to past years. Check corn acres for corn borer damage – if they do not have Bt protection. Corn that is taller than 17 inches extended leaf height will be the most susceptible to corn borer damage. It takes about 1.3 to 1.5 larvae per plant to justify treatment. More info and an economic threshold calculator are available at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0617hodgson2.htm>

Corn rootworm. Small corn rootworm larvae can now be found in corn fields. Check corn fields for rootworm damage by digging and washing a few roots. Damage will appear as scarred roots and roots that are eaten back to within an inch of the crown. More info can be found at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0617hodgson1.htm>

ISU Research Farm Field days.

June 25, North Iowa, Kanawha, 9:00 to 1:00.
June 30, Northwest, Sutherland, 9:30 to 1:00