IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Crops Bulletin

August 6, 2009
Issue 35

Prepared by
Paul Kassel
Extension Field
Agronomist

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

Soybean aphids. Aphids continue to increase in some areas more than others. Continue to check fields on a regular basis. Soybeans are considered safe from soybean aphid damage when the soybeans are in the mid R6 stage. Therefore, soybean aphids have the potential to damage soybean yields for about another three weeks (if soybeans are in the R5 stage) to about four weeks (if soybeans are in the R4 stage).

Fields that are treated before threshold have the potential to have high levels of aphids after the insecticide residual dissipates – since very few aphids will be killed and beneficial insects are killed also. Therefore, it is best to wait to treat for soybean aphids after the field reaches the threshold level.

However, an insurance treatment of an insecticide on R5 stage soybeans may provide enough residual to control aphids until they are well into the R6 stage.

Soybean growth stages.

Stage	***description***	***days until mid R6.***
R4	full size pod at top 4 nodes	33 days.
R5	seed is 1/8 long in pod at top 4 nodes	24 days.
R6	seed fills the pod cavity in pod at top 4 nodes	9 days.

Corn Aphids. Corn leaf aphids are prevalent in some corn fields. Damage to corn from corn aphids is usually associated with dry weather and damage to the tassel and/or pollination. There is not much known about corn aphid damage to corn after pollination. Consider treatment if numerous corn aphid colonies are found at the ear leaf and above. Most corn foliar insecticides will control corn leaf aphids. See this article by Erin Hodgson on corn aphids for more info.

Warmer weather – more GDDs? Warmer weather in August will help make up the deficit in Growing Degree Days (GDDs) that has occurred in 2009. However, above normal GDDs in August will not increase the speed of corn development. Above normal GDDs in August will increase the moisture stress on the corn crop and will have the potential to decrease yields. Growing seasons that have produced record yields (like 1994 and 2004) have had above normal GDD accumulation in June and below normal GDD accumulation in August.

Prepared by Paul Kassel, Extension Field Agronomist
Phone: (712) 262-2264, Email: kassel@iastate.edu