

CROP NOTES for July 1, 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

By Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist

911 S. Mill Street, Decorah, IA 52101

563-382-2949

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

INSECTS

Corn Leaf Aphid

Corn Rootworm

European Corn Borer

Japanese Beetles & Other Scarab Beetles

Potato Leafhopper

Soybean Aphid

Western Bean Cutworm

DISEASE

Soybean Rust Update

Brown Spot in Soybeans

Leaf Spot in Alfalfa

EVENTS

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

July 22, Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo, Boone

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

July 29, Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day, Holland

July 29, Soybean Cyst Nematode Workshop, near Ames

July 30, Corn Nematode Workshop, near Ames

July 30, Howard County Experimental Farm Field Day, Saratoga, Free CCA credits

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

July-September, Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics, Ames (register early)

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

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

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

Sept 2, [Alfalfa Production Clinic](#)

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

Sept 15, [Soil Management Clinic](#)

WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

From May 1 to Present:

Nashua = 850 GDD (93 below normal)

Cedar Rapids = 941 GDD (70 below normal)

INSECTS

Corn Leaf Aphid

In the past few years, some areas of northeast Iowa have seen higher than normal numbers of Corn Leaf Aphid. This pest migrates up from the south every year, so there are no guarantees that if you did or did not have problems last year that you will or will not have problems this year. If you are concerned about this pest, the recommended time to scout is at the very beginning signs of tassel emergence. In preparation for scouting, the following newsletter article talks about scouting and threshold levels for this pest.

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1998/8-10-1998/cornaphids.html>

Corn Rootworm

Just an FYI that we usually see the first few Corn Rootworm beetles appear around the 4th of July. It is usually not until the end of July that Corn Rootworm beetle numbers are peaking.

European Corn Borer (ECB)

Most corn is past any concerns for ECB, however, the following still applies to later planted non-Bt ECB. Once corn reaches 17 inches tall (extended leaf height) it 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>

Japanese Beetles & Other Scarab Beetles

Some people have commented on personally being repeatedly bombarded outdoors by a brown beetle. The June bugs and related beetles are now out and about. There are a number of different kinds of these beetles. The only ones that the farmers need to be concerned about are the Japanese Beetles, and they often limit their activity to south of Hwy 3. Homeowners may have concerns with some other beetles regarding the occurrence of lawn grubs and leaf feeding on ornamental plants. A recent ICM News article provides photos, a brief description, and a brief comment on whether each kind of beetle is a concern or not for farmers. Go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0630hodgson.htm> The general threshold Japanese Beetles and other leaf feeding insects is to treat soybeans in the reproductive stages when there is 20% or more defoliation. People tend to overestimate defoliation. Photos to help calibrate yourself are available at: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2002/7-29-2002/soydefoliation.html>.

Potato Leafhopper

Scout weekly until late August. Scouting tips and photos are available in the 2009 ICM article at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm>

Soybean Aphid

The hot weather last week held the soybean aphid development in check. Last week's count at the Decorah research plot was 70% of the plants and averaging 6 aphids per plant. This week's count was 70% of the plants infested and averaging 4 aphids per plant (see pdf attachment). With the weather returning to normal, the aphid development should get back on track. Currently the 2009 Decorah research plot aphid counts trail the 2007 season, however, low numbers of soybean aphid have already been found in central Iowa this season, about 3 weeks ahead of normal first occurrences of this pest in that region. 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

Pheromone trap network across Iowa is being established. 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

Soybean rust on soybeans remains limited to southern Louisiana and Alabama, with rust found on Kudzu in the same regions of Louisiana, Alabama, plus Florida and east Texas. Wide-scale applications of fungicides for rust have not occurred except in the immediate and adjacent areas to the observations. Predictions are for more favorable weather for the spread of rust. Dr. Yang's model prediction map for spore movement of rust over the next few weeks is attached. Dr. Yang commented that while spore movement along the lower Mississippi River may reach Illinois and Indiana later this month, rainfall favorability in these regions is still low and risk of an epidemic is very low. Rust development can be monitored at the following USDA web site:

<http://sbr.ipmPIPE.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>

Brown Spot in Soybeans

Brown Spot, also called Septoria Leaf Spot, is often present in soybeans to some degree each year. It is present again this season and can be found on lower leaves, mostly the unifoliate leaves, in many fields. As long as this disease remains in the lower canopy it will not significantly affect yield. However, if the disease advances up the canopy during the reproductive stages of the plant, it may warrant a foliar fungicide treatment. This situation occurred in 2007 at the Northeast ISU Research Farm near Nashua, where the untreated severe Brown Spot problem (40 to 60% severity) yielded 4 bushel less than the fungicide treated plots, treated at R2-R3 stage.

The identical trial in 2008 had a minor Brown spot infestation and no advantage to fungicide application. Odds are heavily in favor that Brown spot remains in the lower canopy and does not become a significant problem.

Be careful not to mistake Bacterial blight for Brown spot. Right now Bacterial blight is just beginning to show up in the upper canopy. This is a bacterial disease, not a fungal disease. Foliar fungicide has no effect on Bacterial blight. For photos of these diseases, go to: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1996/7-8-1996/soyfoldis.html>

Leaf Spot in Alfalfa

It is very common to have some leaf disease in alfalfa throughout the summer. Higher incidence of leaf disease are often seen following certain weather conditions, such as hail events. In particular, bacterial leaf diseases may be more evident in alfalfa regrowth following a hail event because of the combination of wounding and rain splash off previously dropped/diseased leaves onto the many open wounds from the hail. Photos and discussions on the most common alfalfa leaf diseases can be found at:

<http://ipm.illinois.edu/diseases/series300/rpd301/index.html> A heavy leaf disease infestation can reduce yield of that cutting by as much as half, however, the next regrowth is usually back to normal yield. If heavy leaf disease is evident, it is often recommended to harvest that cutting at an earlier than normal stage of development to harvest a higher percentage of leaves that would otherwise wilt and drop from the plant by the time the normally planned harvest would occur.

EVENTS

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 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 29, Soybean Cyst Nematode Workshop, near Ames

Dr. Greg Tylka, ISU Extension Nematologist, will be conducting an in depth workshop on SCN at the Ag Information Center, 2.5 miles east of Ames on Hwy 30. Details are provided at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0526tylka.htm> The brochure (Nematode Workshop Flyer) is linked towards the bottom of the article.

July 30, Corn Nematode Workshop, near Ames

Dr. Greg Tylka, ISU Extension Nematologist, will be conducting an in depth workshop on Corn Nematodes at the Ag Information Center, 2.5 miles east of Ames on Hwy 30. Details are provided at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0526tylka.htm> The brochure (Nematode Workshop Flyer) is linked towards the bottom of the article.

July 30, 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-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>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Brian J Lang

ISU Extension Agronomist

911 S. Mill Street, Decorah, IA 52101

Ph 563-382-2949

Cell 563-387-7058

Fax 563-382-2940

Email bjlang@iastate.edu