

CROP NOTES for July 13, 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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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 = 1,063 GDD (151 below normal)

Cedar Rapids = 1,150 GDD (151 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

I have not seen or heard much about corn rootworm causing stand problems. Root evaluations from larvae feeding are typically conducted in the third full week of July. I'll be evaluating our rootworm trials near Elgin next week.

Japanese Beetles

Japanese Beetle activity continues to increase, mostly bothering ornamental crops in the Cedar Rapids area and surrounding counties. The threshold for Japanese Beetles (and other leaf feeding insects) on soybeans is to treat in the reproductive stages when there is 20% or more defoliation. Photos to help calibrate yourself on defoliation are available at:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2002/7-29-2002/soydefoliation.html> In corn, Japanese Beetles have been known to occasionally cause significant silk clipping during pollination. A photo of the beetle and a little more information from the University of Illinois is at:

<http://ipm.illinois.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=1177>

Potato Leafhopper

Scout weekly until late August. A hard rain slows them down, but they can recover rapidly in drier weather. Scouting tips and photos are available in the 2009 ICM article at:

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

Soybean Aphid

Yesterday's count at the Decorah research plot was 60% of the plants infested and averaging 3 aphids per plant. That's 4 weeks in a row with aphids holding at around 65% of the plants infested and averaging about 4 aphids per plant (see pdf attachment). The hot weather 3.5 weeks ago and increased beneficial insect presence has held aphid development at bay. However, with continued normal temperatures and below normal rainfall I expect aphid development to start increasing again. The control from insecticide seed treatments in this trial planted on May 4 is starting to run out. Yesterday's counts at the Decorah research plot was 24% of the plants infested and averaging 0.8 aphids per plant. Last week I mentioned that aphid activity was

actually running a little higher in central and northwest Iowa than it was in northeast Iowa, but that also leveled off, and recently that area received heavy rains which helps hold down aphid activity. State and 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 Aphid populations are running lower than normal pretty much everywhere. Currently only Ontario has aphid populations reaching threshold.

Western bean Cutworm

Pheromone trap network in Iowa is in place. Just a few cutworm have been caught in western Iowa, and nothing east of Hwy 35. Peak flights have usually been in the third full week in July. If current trapping is any indicator, we will not have any trouble at all from this insect this season. The internet reporting page is at: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/trap/westernbeancutworm/> Click on "Trap sites" in the upper left side of the page to find trap catches.

DISEASE

Soybean Rust Update

In last week's Crop Notes, Dr. Yang's 4-week prediction model on spore movement suggested possibly following up the Mississippi River valley to reach southern Illinois later this month. Dr. Yang's current 4-week prediction model now suggests spore movement to remain in the southern Gulf Coast states. The weather further north became unfavorable for spore movement. The risk of an epidemic in Iowa remains very low. Rust development can be monitored at the following USDA web site: <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>

Brown Spot, Bacterial Blight, Frogeye in Soybeans

We continue to find Brown spot in many fields, with the disease not just on the unifoliate leaves, but also on the 1st and 2nd trifoliate in some fields. This is not necessarily a problem, as long as the disease does not continue to climb up the plant. It usually does not. Other diseases that are starting to show up are Bacterial Blight and Frogeye. All three of these diseases are discussed in the recent ICM News article.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0710yang.htm>

Eyespot in Corn

Eyespot is a common disease in corn (see photo and description at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0718robertson.htm>). It usually starts on the lower leaves, and under favorable conditions (presence of disease, susceptible hybrid, cooler wetter weather) it infests leaves further up the plant. In southern Iowa a crop consultant mistook an initial Eyespot infestation for Gray Leaf Spot and was excited about treating with a fungicide. Eyespot is not near the threat that Gray Leaf Spot is, but even so, if we find the presence of Eyespot on the ear leaf and/or up to 3 leaves below the ear leaf on a majority of plants near tassel stage, a foliar fungicide application may be warranted.

Foliar Fungicide Applications

Just a reminder that recent ICM News articles on foliar fungicide applications for corn and soybeans were posted last week. They can be found at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0706robertsonmueller.htm>

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0707robertsonmueller.htm>

Green-Snap in Corn

Recent stormy weather has resulted in some green-snap in corn, namely the July 8 storm around Fayette, and the July 10 storm around Cedar Falls. Green snap is the condition where rapidly growing stalks are broken by strong, sudden winds often associated with thunderstorm downbursts. Fast-growing corn (V6 to Tassel stage) is very susceptible to green snap damage.

New cell walls are extremely fragile and need time to harden and develop. Several factors affect green snap. The timing and the velocity of the wind and plant orientation are the most important, coupled with the hybrid involved. Heavy wind during cool morning hours will cause more green snap than if the wind occurred during the heat of the day. Strong-rooted hybrids with less give at the base will have more green snap than shallow-rooted plants. Conditions that favor rapid growth (adequate nitrogen, high temperatures, and good soil moisture) will increase the incidence of green snap. Phenoxy type herbicides (2, 4-D, dicamba, and clopyralid) stimulate rapid growth and dramatically increase the chances of green snap occurring. Yield losses at this stage of corn development associated with green snap is basically a 1 to 1 ratio in which every 1% green snap equals about 1% yield loss. More information and photos are available at:

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/corn/production/management/mid/greensnap.html>

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in Oats

There have been just a few calls about Blast in Oats likely resulting from Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV). The University of Illinois had several cases reported. On occasion BYDV may become severe enough to cause sterility issues in oats (Blast), reducing seed set and grain production. The seed heads of Blast are white in color while the normally developing seed heads are still green. Blast is most commonly caused by environmental stresses of drought and high temperature, but can be caused by a few diseases too. Best management to avoid BYDV is to grown oats rated with high resistance. All oats are rated as to their resistance to this disease. For photos of leaf symptoms of BYDV and seed head symptoms of Blast, go to photos 5 and 7 at:

http://www.can-oat.com/docs/oat_diseases.pdf

EVENTS

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

9:30 am to Noon. The program will highlight a presentation on “*Selecting Precision Farming Systems for your Business/ Farming Operation*” by Matt Darr, ISU Ag Engineer. The program will also 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

Start time is still tentative. I'll have it next week, but plan on something around 5:00 or 5:300 pm. The host is Max Schmidt, a long-time conservation advocate and is currently involved in a ILF demonstration trial comparing continuous corn yields and soil quality changes where corn stalks are post-harvest baled vs. not baled. Program highlights include: 1) Max shares his experiences with conservation tillage. 2) Neil Shaffer, Mike Praska, and David Puffer discuss accomplishments and updates from Howard County SWCD watershed improvement projects. 3) Likely have an additional guest speaker/farmer share experiences with no-till, and 4) Dr. Matt Helmers demonstrates the portable rainfall simulator and provides his insights on water quality issues. A free evening meal will be provided.

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: 1) Jim Green, Riceville Vo-Ag Instructor, a summary of recent research at on-farm plus 2009 trials, 2) Kris Koth, Howard County FSA, an update on ACRES, 3) Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist, current crop & pest management issues and tips on potential crop pests for August, 4) Mike Praska, Howard County Soil Conservationist, Q&A on conservation practices. A free lunch provided by Farmers Feed & Grain of Riceville follows the program. The program is free, open to the public, no pre-

registration, with free CCA credits available. Directions: 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.

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:

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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