

CROP NOTES for July 20, 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEATHER

Degree Days for Corn

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

INSECTS

Corn Leaf Aphid

Corn Rootworm

Japanese Beetles

Potato Leafhopper

Soybean Aphid

Western Bean Cutworm

DISEASE

Soybean Rust Update

Brown Spot, Bacterial Blight, Frogeye, Cercospora in Soybeans

Eyespot in Corn

Gray Leaf Spot in Corn

Foliar Fungicide Applications

EVENTS

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)

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 = 1,162 GDD (221 below normal)

Cedar Rapids = 1,255 GDD (222 below normal)

We are currently running about 1 week behind normal.

Comments from Elwynn Taylor

July 20, 2009. The weather this season has a lot in common with 1992 and 2004 across the U. S. Both summers were warm on the West Coast and cold in the Corn Belt. Both had record high corn yields in the Midwest. 2009, even with the shaky start, is set up to have a record high yield... Too early to call this a forecast, but it is worth watching. Elwynn

INSECTS

Corn Leaf Aphid

It's time to scout for this pest, although I have no reports and have not seen any corn leaf aphids. A July 17, 2009 ICM News article summarizes this pest and includes a simplified scouting and threshold approach. Go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0717hodgson.htm>

Corn Rootworm

We have good corn rootworm larvae feeding pressure on the product comparison trials at the research farm near Nashua. Protection from products and Bt looks good. However, there have been some "hot spots" of failed control in eastern Delaware County and also in Jackson County. The Jackson County site will be sampled for rootworm beetles and examined by researchers on campus. FYI, most root evaluations of larvae feeding in research trials will likely be conducted this week.

Japanese Beetles

Japanese Beetle activity continues to bother mostly ornamental crops in the Cedar Rapids area and surrounding counties. However, I had a Decorah resident come in the Winneshiek County Extension office last week with a jar full of Japanese Beetles. 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. Scouting tips and photos are available in the 2009 ICM article at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0615hodgson.htm>

Soybean Aphid

This week at the research trial in Decorah the soybean aphid numbers increased in number of plants infested from 60% to 95%, and average number of aphids per plant from 3 to 13. See attached table on aphid trends. This week the insecticide seed treated plots increased in number of plants infested from 24% to 54%, and average number of aphids per plant from 0.8 to 5. In

general, aphid numbers are similar in Minnesota and Illinois, but running a little higher in western Wisconsin, but still below threshold. We need to be vigilant in our scouting now. The current weather pattern is excellent for aphid development, and in most years we usually see a migration of winged aphids occur over the next few weeks (mid- to late July to mid-Aug) helping spread aphid populations. Nationally, you can check aphid activity at the USDA web site: http://sba.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi?host=All%20Legumes/Kudzu&pest=soybean_aphid . Currently only Ontario has aphid populations above threshold.

Western bean Cutworm

The traps are catching very low numbers of this pest. Current trapping suggest no problem with this pest 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

Simply stated, the risk for 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, Cercospora 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 leaves 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, Frogeye and Cercospora. The first three of these diseases are discussed in the recent ICM News article.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0710yang.htm> A photo and discussion of Cercospora leaf blight is at:

http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soybean/diseases_cercosporasojina.html If these diseases appear to be at threatening levels, i.e. Brown spot reaching mid-level or higher in the plant, or initial signs of Frogeye or Cercospora on a susceptible variety, R3 stage is the preferred timing for a fungicide application.

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. Under a wet and cool weather pattern with susceptible hybrids, if Eyespot is found either on the ear leaf and/or 1 to 3 leaves below the ear leaf on a majority of plants near tassel stage, a foliar fungicide application may be warranted.

Gray Leaf Spot in Corn

Gray Leaf Spot is being found in numerous fields in Kansas, Nebraska and now southwest Iowa. See photo and description at: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2002/8-19-2002/grayleafspot.html> . It usually starts on the lower leaves, and under favorable conditions (presence of disease, susceptible hybrid, warm and very humid weather) it infests leaves further

up the plant. Under a very humid environment, if Gray Leaf Spot is found either on the ear leaf and/or 1 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

This is a repeat from earlier Crop Notes, listing recent ICM News articles about disease presence and timing of foliar fungicide applications for corn and soybeans. They can be found at:

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

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

EVENTS

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

Starts at 5:15 pm at the Max Schmidt farm near Elma. The field day will focus on crop residue management and conservation farming practices to reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality. Max Schmidt will offer information about his ILF continuous corn demonstration site and his commitment to conservation. Attendees will tour some of Schmidt's fields, along with neighboring farmers' fields, to see no-till planting and installed conservation structures.

Matt Helmers, ISU Extension water quality engineer, will demonstrate the ILF rainfall simulator; he and representatives from the Iowa Water Center will discuss Iowa water issues. Wrapping up the program, Neil Shaffer, Mike Praska and David Puffer will highlight accomplishments and provide updates on Howard County watershed improvement projects. The field day includes a complimentary evening meal served by the Howard County Pork Producers.

The event is free and the public is invited to attend, but an RSVP is recommended. Please call the Howard County NRCS office in Cresco, 563/547-3040, to register for this event. Directions: From Elma, the site is 1.5 miles north of the intersection of county roads V18 and B17 (Grove Street) and three-fourths of a mile west. From Highway 9, travel south on V18 seven miles to 170th Street, then three-fourths of a mile west. The field day site is approximately one mile southeast of Max and Georgia Schmidt's farmstead.

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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