

# Extension Crop Update

This newsletter, and previous issues from recent years, can be found on-line at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm>

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Prepared by

**Joel DeJong,**

Extension Field Agronomist

Plymouth County Extension

24 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW

LeMars, IA 51031

Phone: (712) 546-7835 e-mail:

[jldejong@iastate.edu](mailto:jldejong@iastate.edu)

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**GDD's and Crop Growth:** In NW Iowa we are about 160 GDD's (growing degree days, base 50) behind average through July 19. Right now we would normally accumulate about 26 GDD's/day, so that would make us a little more than 6 days behind right now from May 1. Of course, we accumulate fewer GDD's/day earlier and later in the season, so the day comparison isn't always that accurate. Rich Pope, from the Entomology Dept. at ISU, recently wrote an ICM News article about GDD accumulation. He had 2 points I have been asked about recently that I am going to include here:

Will soybeans be damaged by the cold during flowering? Pod set is determined in part by biomass accumulation, which is slowed by the cold. But soybean has a great ability to flower over long periods, and warmth in the next 2--3 weeks should allow for ample pod set. We will start to have more concern if it gets to August and we are still unusually cool, but even 80-degree highs and 60-degree lows will help.

What diseases might become issues? Some diseases are more prevalent in the heat, some in cooler weather. Conditions may favor downy mildew on soybean in low lying areas, and eyespot on corn is a concern in some areas, while southwest and south central Iowa have cornfields with significant gray leaf spot infections.

**Soybean Observations:** This week I have received a lot of calls about some top leaves on soybean plants where the bottoms of the leaves are red/brown in color. In the field you might notice that most of these leaves are upside-down. Last week, mostly Friday, we had quite a bit of wind and it was a day with lots of sunshine. This caused these leaves to flip over in the wind, and the bottoms were **sunburned** or **sun scalded**. This is NOT an infectious disease, and likely did very little to the yield of the crop. A lot of you noticed this, and it is great to see many of you watching fields closely! Don't worry; this is not a significant problem. To see a brief description and a picture, see this web site from the U of Missouri: <http://www.plantsci.missouri.edu/soydoc/files/environ/sunburn.htm>.

The most prevalent disease I continue to see right now is Bacterial Blight, but note that Bacterial Blight cannot be managed by fungicides, only variety selection. Brown spot is also present on lower canopies. I have seen no fields in the R-3 stage, so it is still too early to treat at this time if you think it is needed. Review ISU Plant Pathologist XB Yang's recent article in the ICM News titled "Scouting for Foliar Diseases in a Cool Summer": <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0710yang.htm>.

**Soybean Aphid Update:** Reports from around Iowa seem to show the same thing – many fields are still aphid free, and fields with aphids seem to

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continue at low numbers at this point in time. Reports around the Midwest seem similar – check out the IPM-PIPE reporting network results at this web site: <http://sba.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>. Unlike last year, when visiting fields I am much more frequently finding some of the beneficial insects. Maybe I'm just looking closer, but maybe it is true, and is giving us some help??? I hope so! My counterpart from NE Iowa, Brian Lang, reported the first increase in aphid numbers in his research plots in the last 3 weeks (although numbers are still way below the 250/plant threshold.) I also found a couple of hot spots in a field near the Big Sioux River this past week. So – it is probably time to get out there and start scouting, if you have not already. Check out the ISU Soybean Aphid page for links to lots of soybean aphid management information, including a link to the Minnesota Speed Scouting publication site: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/soybeanaphid/>. Podcasts featuring ISU Entomologists from ISU are being posted here weekly, FYI.

**Check Corn while it Pollinates** – As corn pollinates I think it is important to watch fields for a couple of things. First, be certain insects are not chewing off silks before they can pollinate. If silks are chewed off less than 1" in length, pollination cannot occur very well – there isn't enough silk to adequately intercept the pollen. When does this happen? Typically in the latest pollinating corn after rootworm adults have emerged – they do the primary feeding on silks here in NW Iowa. If pollination is still occurring and beetles are present and clipping silks, an insecticide application can still help.

Also, I like to go into fields and carefully remove the husk from ears during and near the end of the pollination time period. Silks that have pollinated kernels die where they connect to the kernel shortly after pollinating and will release or easily shake free from the kernel. If still attached to the kernel it has not yet pollinated. You cannot do much if it isn't pollinating, but at least you know if it did indeed pollinate!

While out there, check for disease lesions, particularly in your corn on corn fields, and in hybrids that don't have very good disease ratings. See the [ICM News](#) for articles on corn diseases and fungicides.

**Residue Management Training Workshop Aug. 18** - ISU Extension is offering a Residue Management Training Workshop on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Buena Vista County Extension Office in Storm Lake. As part of the program, lunch will be provided as well as 3.5 Soil and Water Management CCA credits for Certified Crops Advisors. The workshop will provide training on the role of crop residue in improving soil and water quality; show the importance of residue in improving soil organic matter; and present management alternatives for handling crop residue. This workshop targets agricultural professionals including Extension, NRCS and FSA personnel, Crop consultants, Ag dealers and individuals interested in receiving CCA credits in soil and water management. The residue management and cover crops topics include results of residue removal trials, implement adjustment for better residue management, residue management and its value to soil quality and carbon credits, cover crops, erosion and N-leaching and a farmers' panel.

There is no registration fee but preregistration is requested. For preregistration, please call the Buena Vista County ISU Extension Office, (712) 732-5056.