

# 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>

**July 28, 2009**

Volume 12, Issue #15



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**Soybean Aphid Update:** Soybean aphids continue to be low across NW Iowa at the present time. Continue to check for soybean aphid populations in the coming weeks. Remember from past years that aphid damage to soybeans can occur until the R5.5 (seeds in pods near the top of the plant are over about ¼ inch in length) growth stage or another 4 to 5 weeks. The insecticides that are commonly used for soybean aphids have about 7 to 10 days of actual insecticide residual. Soybean aphid numbers can recover about 7 to 10 days after the insecticide residue has dissipated resulting in a 3 week effective residual period. Therefore, hold off on insecticide applications until aphid populations have reached threshold to gain the upper hand. 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/>.

**Check Cornfields for Disease Levels:** Research on fungicides over the past few years has shown that the chance of getting a profit returned on a fungicide application is much higher if significant disease pressure is present. This week I have been in several cornfields - some look almost disease-free, while others have shown quite a bit of eyespot present. Hybrid resistance can make a big difference with this disease. A few other leaf diseases were also found at low levels in some of these fields. Scout fields from tassel to R-4 (dough stage), examine 100 plants in several places, look at lower, middle and upper canopy (mostly middle and upper), and properly identify the disease. According to ISU Extension's "Scouting for Corn Diseases," if the majority of plants have fungal lesions up to the ear leaf or higher at flowering and conditions favor further disease development, consider using a labeled foliar fungicide.

Read more about corn diseases in a recent ICM News article titled "Eyespot and Gray Leaf Spot Severity Continue to Increase in Iowa," found here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0721Robertson.htm>.

**Mark your Calendar for Aug. 27** - ISU Extension, the Iowa Learning Farm project, and the NW Iowa On-farm Research project will be holding a root pit, crop growth and development meeting at the Nate Ronsiek farm near Hawarden in Sioux County from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Watch later newsletters for more details of the event – but hold it on your calendar NOW!

**"Thanks for Subscribing!"**