

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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*Serving Cherokee,
Lyon, O'Brien,
Osceola, Plymouth,
Sioux and Woodbury
Counties in NW Iowa.*

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Corn Observations: While observing fields this weekend I think we have some very good examples of why a total post emergence herbicide program isn't always a good idea. We need a dry window of opportunity to get fields sprayed – in non-windy weather. We might be quite susceptible to drift issues because we will push that window pretty hard when the opportunity finally arises. Consider management for drift reduction.

Some areas have had water standing on them long enough to kill off existing seedlings. The “Integrated Crop Management News” site had several good articles posted during the last week on issues like how long corn can survive under saturated conditions, corn replanting, or replant options with the herbicides that have been previously applied. Review the articles on this web page if that is a concern for you:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>.

Black Cutworms could be out there cutting. I've seen a few plants cut, but have heard no local reports over the treatment threshold, although other parts of Iowa have reported some insecticide spraying. The threshold is about 2% of the plants cut for $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cutworms; and for cutworms that are 1 inch long the threshold was lowered down to a 2-3% stand loss. After about V-6 (6 collar corn) cutworms don't do a lot of additional damage, so you can then quit scouting. Corn is NOT that big yet.

Soybean Notes: Beans are still being planted in NW Iowa, although most acres are now in the ground, and emerging! The later we plant, the more erratic yield expectations seem to be. Beans planted now still average near 90% of those planted in early May – they can come close to 100%, or they can sometimes have a significant yield decrease. However, that yield expectation percent is dropping faster every day. Data on planting dates and yield expectations, and tools for future decision-making if you need to consider replanting can be found in this very good reference, “Soybean Replant Decisions,” found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1851.pdf>.

There have been a lot of acres of beans under water in Iowa this week. If you had acres like that, review Palle Pedersen's recent articles in the “ICM Crop News”: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>. His articles from over the weekend include topics on how late can you plant beans, replanting from flooding or hail, and how flooding impacts beans.

One last note: Late planted beans don't produce as many nodes, nor do they fill in the row as rapidly. We often see a positive yield response from narrowing rows for these later planted beans. Research does not seem to indicate a need to increase population levels, however, assuming that seeds are still planted as accurately as when planted in rows.

Alfalfa Management: The two Plymouth County fields that I have been monitoring were averaging 29” in height of the tallest stem today, and are in the

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bud stage. According to the PEAQ web site: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/peaqest1.htm>, **the relative feed value of the forage in these fields is now at 160.** Relative feed value drops an average of 3 – 5 points per day. Alfalfa should be around 150 RFV for milking dairy herds, 120 – 130 for heifers, stocker cattle and lactating beef cattle. Under the best conditions, 15% of the forage dry matter will be lost at harvest. I'm hoping we get a harvest opportunity soon!

It's Time for the Late Spring N Test. Lots of fields are at the size needed for taking late spring soil N tests. These samples should be taken when corn is between 6 and 12 inches tall, which corresponds to V3 to V6 stage corn. Select a sample area of 10 acres or less of similar soils. Take 16 to 24 cores to a depth of 12 inches. Samples should be kept cool and sent to the lab as soon as possible. Detailed instructions and the interpretation of results are found in *Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in Iowa* (Pm-1714), <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1714.pdf>. With the amount of water we have had in the soil system this year, this might be a helpful management tool.

Fungicides for Wheat? I think I have observed more wheat acres in NW Iowa than I have ever seen. Although it is not a lot of acres, if some belong to you, you are likely questioning the value of fungicide applications for disease prevention. I will refer you to two recent articles. The first is from Nebraska: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archives/2008/crop12/wheat_rust.htm. The second from Wisconsin's "Crop Manager" newsletter of May 29: [http://ipcm.wisc.edu/Portals/0/Blog/Files/17/542/WCM_15\(12\)b.pdf](http://ipcm.wisc.edu/Portals/0/Blog/Files/17/542/WCM_15(12)b.pdf). Take a look if you have any wheat acres in NW Iowa.

Registration Open Now for Summer FEEL Clinics: Registration is now open for all the 2008 FEEL (Field Extension Education Lab) events. To see a listing of the events with descriptions and to register online go to: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/homepage.html>. These hands-on events occur at the FEEL lab near Ames. They offer a good opportunity to look in depth at a variety of crop production issues. Take a look at the scheduled events and course details!

Hold this date! Wednesday, June 25, from 9:30 am until noon is the scheduled time for this year's NW Iowa Research Farm Field Day. Topics will include weed management issues, liming Iowa soils, livestock and feed price outlook, and "timely topics." More details later – but hold the date – it will be a good field day!