

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>

June 11, 2008

Volume 11, Issue #10



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

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Making the Decision after a Hail Storm: Woodbury County had an area that received significant damage from a hail storm this past weekend. I hope this is the only time I have to talk about this hard white stuff in 2008, but history tells me that there will be more neighborhoods in NW Iowa that will receive hail sometime this year. When you receive hail on your field it is very difficult to sort out the emotion from a good decision. I try to encourage those who have some tough decisions to make about these crops to try and use whatever good resources are available to make these decisions – not just your emotions. Roger Elmore, ISU Corn Specialist, just recently published an article titled “Evaluating Hail Injury to Corn” on the ISU ICM News page. Find it here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0607LoriAbendrothRogerElmore.htm>. This article does a good job explaining the stages of growth, some expectations, how to evaluate the plants, and has links to some other very good references for a situation like this. I encourage you to remember it is here, and review it if you have to deal with this problem.

For soybeans, the publication titled “Soybean Replant Decisions” is also a great reference. Read it before making that scouting trip, it helps. It can be found here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1851.pdf>.

Nitrogen losses. N loss is certainly a concern to farmers in light of the heavy rains we’ve received. Dr. John Sawyer reminds us that the degree of leaching or denitrification depends on several factors such as the percent of nitrogen in the nitrate form, the duration of soil saturation, and the amount of water that effectively moves nitrate through the soil profile. Just this week, John posted an article about how nitrogen loss happens. I think you need to understand this process in order to make good decisions on N management this year. Read this article:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0610JohnSawyer1.htm>.

Dr. Sawyer also wrote “Estimating nitrogen losses – early spring 2007” for the May 14, 2007, ICM Newsletter, found here:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/5-14/estimating.html>. In this article he notes that University of Nebraska research found that denitrification losses were roughly 10% of nitrate-N when soils were saturated for 5 days and 25% loss when soils were saturated for 10 days. His article also discusses estimating nitrogen losses and provides an example.

NW Iowa has been relatively fortunate this year – we have not had the rainfall that has occurred in many other Iowa locations, many (but not all!) of our soils are well drained with some slope so that standing water isn’t as big an issue as in a lot of the remainder of Iowa, and our soils have not been saturated nearly as long as a lot of others in the state. However, we have

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had well above average rainfall, so N status is an issue of concern. Read these articles – they might help you sort through this discussion for this year.

Don't forget the late spring N test! These samples should be taken when corn is between 6 and 12 inches tall, which corresponds to V3 to V6 stage corn. 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>.

Common Stalk Borers begin to Move

It's the time of year when Common Stalk Borers move from field borders to the outside rows of cornfields, beginning soon in NW Iowa (predicted dates – June 17 for WC Iowa, June 23 for NW Iowa). The dates above are when about 10% of the population is big enough to move out of grass and into corn – a good time to treat border rows if this has been a problem for you. Some, but not all, Bt hybrids seem to give help to reducing problems with these pests, but if you do not have any Bt's along the edge of fields and this has been a pest for you, I would start scouting now. Watch for “dead-head” broom in high numbers that signal the migration is beginning. Additional discussion can be found at this ISU ICM News article from this past week:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0609poperice.htm>.

NW Research Farm Field Day June 25! The Northwest Iowa Experimental Farm Field Day will begin at 9:30 am on June 25 at the farm near Calumet in O'Brien County. John Sawyer, ISU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist, will discuss “Liming Soils for Corn and Soybean Production.” Bob Hartzler, ISU Extension Weed Specialist, will address “Weed Management Options and Concerns.” John Lawrence or Shane Ellis, ISU Extension Livestock Economists from Ames, will talk about “Livestock and Feed Price Outlook,” with a focus on how present grain price levels are effecting the livestock industry. I will focus on “Timely Crop Production Topics” and will also be answering questions of the audience attending the field day.

The program will conclude at noon, and a noon lunch will then be available at the site - for about \$6. If participants choose to not eat at the field day, attendance is free! In case of rain, the event will be held at the American Legion Hall in Sutherland. The farm is located 1/4 mile east of Highway 59 on B-62, approximately two miles south of Calumet. CCA credits have been applied for!

Soybean diseases? X.B. Yang, in this recent ISU ICM News article:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0609XBYang.htm>, reviews the disease issues from the last seriously wet year, 1993. It is interesting reading. The good news? Texas and Florida have been quite dry – not developing many Soybean Rust spores, reducing our risk of this pest for 2008.