

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 24, 2008

Volume 11, Issue #11



Prepared by

Joel DeJong,

Extension Field Agronomist

Plymouth County Extension
24 1st St. NW
LeMars, IA 51031
Phone: (712) 546-7835 e-mail:
jldejong@iastate.edu

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Nitrogen losses. N loss continues to be a concern for farmers this year – in some areas in NW Iowa more than others. If you have not read Dr. John Sawyer's June 11th article on the ISU *Integrated Crop News* web site, I recommend you do so (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0610JohnSawyer1.htm>). Dr. Sawyer wrote a second article discussing nitrogen loss on June 20th: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0620JohnSawyer.htm>. He does an excellent job of explaining the current situation and the relationship between yellow corn and drainage. He also discusses rescue considerations. It's a really good read if you have yellow stressed corn!

Paul Kassel, the ISU Extension Field Agronomist based in Spencer, offered some very practical thoughts on managing N in these stressed fields. Here is what he wrote recently:

- Corn looks stressed for more reasons than just N loss. Poor root development, corn on corn conditions, and waterlogged soils, lead to the appearance of N deficient corn.
- Corn is recovering from this slowly. Signs of recovery are new white roots, and the newest leaf is green in color.
- Consider more N if conditions are improving and if the new emerging leaves are yellow in color.
- Consider application rates of 40 – 50 lbs/a of N. Best results may come from N applications that are injected or worked in with cultivation.

Time to Start Checking for Soybean Cyst Nematodes. Now is a good time of year to check fields for Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN). Every time you walk your bean fields, dig up soybean plants (don't pull them out) and look for cysts on soybean roots. Don't know what they look like on a root? Afraid you cannot tell the difference between a nodule and a root? Try looking at this very good picture of a heavily infested root in this ISU ICM Newsletter: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2005/6-27/scn.html>. We don't scout enough in NW Iowa – I urge you to look!

Common Stalk Borers are Moving! Common Stalk Borers are moving from field borders to the outside rows of cornfields (predicted 50% movement dates – June 26 for WC Iowa, July 2 for NW Iowa). There are areas where there is a lot of "dead head" brome – plants that the borers were in when smaller, but have moved out into corn from these origination sites. 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 take a look now! Additional discussion can

Extension Crop Update, continued

be found at this ISU ICM News article: <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 tomorrow, June 25, at 9:30 am at the farm near Calumet in O'Brien County (sorry if you don't see this until after the meeting has been held!). Topics include "Liming Soils for Corn and Soybean Production," "Weed Management Options and Concerns," "Livestock and Feed Price Outlook," and "Timely Crop Production Topics."

Scout Alfalfa for Potato Leafhoppers: Get out in your alfalfa fields with a sweep net and scout for leafhoppers. For scouting help, check out this Integrated Crop Management Newsletter: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1999/6-21-1999/potlhmang.html> . Remember, if you wait for the alfalfa to turn yellow before you treat, you REALLY missed the treatment threshold!

When Spraying, Always Be Cautious... Not just about wearing protective equipment, but also preventing drift on nearby crops. In addition, double check that this field has that hybrid or variety with the herbicide tolerance you think it has. Some herbicides can create damage at very low levels on other crops, or crops without herbicide tolerance genes, so clean tanks thoroughly between crops, or even between hybrids with different trait resistance – particularly when you have herbicides that can cause injury at low levels. This year I have seen several situations in NW Iowa with problems due to each of those listed above. Pay attention to the details!