

## 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,  
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Sioux and Woodbury  
Counties in NW Iowa.*

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**It's Aphid Scouting Time!** I have seen no aphids in soybeans at this time, but have heard a report out of Cherokee County, and another out of Lyon County that there are a couple of sites with aphids present, but at low levels. Every field I have been in has been free of aphids at this time, from my observation. Reports of some aphids in different parts of Iowa have been starting to come in – but these levels also seem to remain low. The aphid suction traps that are located across the upper Midwest have not been very successful in trapping this pest, either. So, we really don't know what kind of threat they will pose this year, but they are off to a slow start.

ISU's treatment threshold still remains at an average of 250 per plant. I do not encourage using insecticide treatments as insurance "in case" they show up. Don't replace scouting and integrated pest management with insurance!

**Phytophthora Root Rot in Soybeans** – This week I have seen a few fields and had a few more calls reporting areas of some fields with dying soybeans. Diseased seedlings are wilted and have rotted roots. Leaves look gray, then turn yellow, but remain attached to the plant. Brown lesions often develop leading from the soil line up the stem of the plant. The lesion will girdle the stem and kill the plant, and if not killed, the plant will be stunted. This disease is called Phytophthora, and our wet conditions from this year have made it an ideal situation for the development of this disease in some fields. One week of wet weather followed by a week of dry weather make for an ideal environment for this pest – in addition to the saturated soils we had earlier. To see a picture of an infected plant, read more details about this disease, and discover management options, check out this page from the Soybean Management web site on Phytophthora: [http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soybean/diseases\\_prr.html](http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soybean/diseases_prr.html).

Remember, we can get the Plant Disease Clinic at ISU to confirm what disease is present. Information about how to submit samples, where to send, forms for including with the sample, and the cost of analysis (\$10 per sample) from their web site: <http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/pdc/>.

**Should You Consider a Corn Fungicide?** Good question – not certain I have the right answer. Our NW On-farm Research projects the last couple of years had a percentage of fields that had a positive response to fungicides on corn – but the majority of the fields where we had replicated treatments did not. Like any decision, using or not using a fungicide has risks. Using the fungicide and not getting a yield response costs you money out of your pocket. Not using a fungicide in a field that could have given a yield boost is also possible.

## *Extension Crop Update, continued*

There are several factors to consider when making this decision – such as the disease resistance of hybrids, history of diseases in this field, the weather during kernel fill, the cropping history, and several others considerations. I encourage you to read these two articles while making these decisions – I find them helpful when thinking about corn fungicide application. The first is from Carl Bradley at the University of Illinois: <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=976>. He discusses many of these issues, and also the discussion of applying fungicides to hailed corn (his data has shown no difference in response in simulated hail plots than “non-hailed” corn). Alison Robertson, ISU Dept of Plant Pathology, also discussed this issue in an Integrated Crop News article this past week: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0703Robertson.htm>. I hope these help you through this decision-making process!

**Corn on Corn?** Although I have seen quite a few corn on corn fields that look pretty good in NW Iowa this spring, there are others that do not look so good. These complaints are much more common in several other areas of Iowa. Recently a group of our Extension Specialists composed an article in the Integrated Crop News about this phenomenon. If you grow corn on corn, I think it is a good read: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0703Elmore.htm>.

**Iowa Learning Farm (and ISU Extension) Field Day July 10, O’Brien County...** from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Tom Wagner Farm, 4236 Taft Avenue, Primghar. The farm is located 3 miles east of Primghar on County Road B-40, then 3.25 miles south on County Road L-54 (Taft Avenue). This field day will feature information on strip-tillage and tips on how to begin to strip-till; discussion of strip-tillage equipment and economics vs. multi-pass, full-width tillage management; demonstration of the ILF conservation systems rainfall simulator; and local perspectives on 2008 crop issues.

Everyone is invited. A complimentary meal will be served. Please RSVP to O’Brien County Extension Office: 712/957-5045 if you will be attending.