

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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Should You Consider a Fungicide, part 2: I discussed this last week, and noted several good links for review. You can see this issue here, if you did not keep it: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/45DDA8BC-664C-4DCC-9136-50EC7C418E73/82361/CropUpdate70908.pdf>. In addition, Daren Mueller, ISU Plant Pathologist, added an article titled “Fungicide Decisions Nearing for Corn and Soybean” to the ICM News site this week. Another very good read for making this decision. Find it here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0714Mueller1.htm>. Spend some time and read the article, and the links!

Aphid Update I have seen just a few aphids in soybeans at this time, and have heard one report out of Woodbury County in a field near a wooded area that reached treatment levels. Scattered low reports have come from other counties, and many fields are still not showing any aphids at all. ISU’s treatment threshold remains at an average of 250 per plant, even with higher bean prices. I still encourage you to NOT replace scouting and integrated pest management with insurance treatments.

Soybean Rust Update Conditions have been poor in the south for rust development, but are finally improving in the SE states. However, our risk likely would have to originate from the western route (from Texas), and development remains low there. Therefore our rust risk during this growing season remains low for 2008.

Corn rootworm beetles? Watch for corn rootworm beetle adults emerging in corn fields. If corn hasn’t pollinated, keep an eye on the silks to watch for silk clipping. Silks should be at least ½ inch long, preferably at least 1” long, so pollen can be intercepted. If silks remain very short, these insects are present, and pollination is still occurring, treating with an insecticide to eliminate silk clipping might be a very good idea. Later pollinating fields have higher risks. It doesn’t happen that often, but if it does, and you could have prevented it, you will appreciate the scouting time you put in!

Western Bean Cutworms – Reports for Cherokee, Plymouth and Woodbury counties seem to show that some of these moths are emerging, but numbers so far look to be very low. To see what trapping numbers show, you can go to the ISU western bean cutworm page – click on “Trap Sites” and then review the data at the site you want to see. Here is the web page: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/trap/westernbeancutworm/>. Look carefully – 2007’s data is still here, too, so sort that out from the 2008 information.

Extension Crop Update, continued

The University of Nebraska pest management newsletter had a good article last year about this pest with very good pictures. It can be found here: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archives/2007/crop17/western_bean_cutworm.htm . Note that this includes a threshold of 8% of the plants with egg masses. However, some Nebraska Crop Consultants with field expertise would indicate that 5% might be a better threshold. Also note that there is data which would indicate that the Herculex Bt gene helps reduce pressure from this pest. Maybe this will help you know which fields you should focus your scouting.

Bean Leaf Beetles Emerging. The first full generation of bean leaf beetles can be seen now in some soybean fields. For additional information on bean leaf beetle management, please review these two ICM newsletter articles. The first discusses management if you want to manage the beetles, or if you need to get more aggressive and manage bean pod mottle virus instead: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2003/4-28-2003/blbmanagement.html>

The second article discusses management and scouting of this generation – to be used in determining if we need to treat the NEXT generation of beetles: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2004/7-12-2004/predictblb.html>. Although this has older data of when peak beetle emergence should be occurring, the idea is still helpful in planning. I would estimate the peak emergence dates listed in this article to be about 4 or 5 days ahead of this year.

NW On-Farm Research Project Field Day August 4, Near Larchwood - Evaluating root systems in a root pit, an update of NW Iowa on-farm research projects, and a discussion of corn growth and development during 2008 will be the highlighted topics during the evening of August 4 at the Larry Warner farm near Larchwood in Lyon County. Iowa State University Extension Corn Specialist Roger Elmore will be the keynote presenter, along with Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist and Josh Sievers, NW Iowa On-Farm Research Project Coordinator. The program starts with a free supper for attendees at 5:30, followed by the presentations in the field. The Warner farm where this field day will be held is 1 mile North of Lester, at the intersection of K-30 and 140th Street in Lyon County.

A joint venture between ISU Extension, ISU Northwest Research Farm, and the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association created the Northwest Iowa On-Farm Research Project. The goal of the group is to research ideas that effect crop production in Northwest Iowa, focusing on Sioux, Lyon, and Osceola Counties. Data is collected from replicated studies, statistically analyzed, and shared with producers during meetings. This is the fourth year of the project, which has 18 cooperators conducting over 30 experiments in 2008. See the web page at <http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu/> for the summaries of the projects from past years.