

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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More Fungicide Discussion: There continue to be both soybean and corn fungicide articles on the Integrated Crop News site. Go to the site and read a couple of the most recent articles, and even browse some from a couple of weeks ago. This site can be found here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>. Plant Pathologist X.B. Yang posted the article “More on Fungicide Application Questions” late last week, and the article titled “Preventative vs. Curative Fungicides” was printed today. These are in addition to articles I linked in previous Crop Update newsletters.

Aphid Update - I have heard reports of and seen some fields over threshold levels, lots of fields with low levels, and some with none – and they can be in the same neighborhood! It does seem that the growth of these pests has increased a lot in some NW Iowa fields this past week. Know what you have before making management decisions! ISU Extension just issued a new pair of publications on soybean aphids, one on “Speed Scouting,” which can be read on the Iowa Soybean Association web page:

<http://www.iasoybeans.com/checkoff/publications/aphidcard/aphidcard.pdf>, which has a quicker scouting method that makes you count only to 40 aphids per plant, not 250. The other, much more in-depth publication, titled “Aphid Management Field Guide 2008,” is downloadable from here:

<http://www.iasoybeans.com/checkoff/publications/aphidguide.html>. One section discusses why the 250 threshold is still a good one, even with present soybean prices. Which products should you use? This is included in the “Insecticides” segment of this publication. Check it out!

Corn rootworm beetles? Watch for corn rootworm beetle adults emerging in corn fields that are later pollinators. I have seen very few beetles so far, but if you have a field that is pollinating later than the neighborhood, it might attract more beetles to these areas. 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.

Western Bean Cutworms – Reports for Cherokee, Plymouth and Woodbury counties still remain low, but have risen a little in the last few days. If we have seen peak emergence, then the pressure might be pretty low this year. This might be the time to start looking for egg masses on the upper leaves. To see what trapping numbers show, you can go to the ISU western bean cutworm page <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/trap/westernbeancutworm/> and

Extension Crop Update, continued

click on “Trap Sites” and then review the data at the site you want to see. The University of Nebraska pest management newsletter’s article about this pest can be found here:

http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archives/2007/crop17/western_bean_cutworm.htm.

Bean Leaf Beetles. I have seen quite a few of these creatures in some fields, and almost none in others. ISU Entomologist Jon Tollefson just put this article about BLB’s on the web – review it for scouting ideas for determining if to treat for the next generation:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/bean+leaf+beetles+coming.htm>.

Bean leaf beetles are at the most damaging stage when they are feeding on pods. Dr. Larry Pedigo, a retired entomology researcher at ISU, studied these pests for many years. He observed that pod feeding only occurs when the leaves are starting to reach maturity (senescing), before that time they prefer leaves over pods. Pod feeding is when they take bites out of the pods. I have received calls that they might chew off the stems and the pods fall to the ground. Although that is a common report, it is doubtful if this is occurring. More likely, we are getting pod abortion – common in soybeans – and that is why you see some small pods on the ground.

An exception for treating this generation would be if these creatures were removing more than 20% of the total leaf area on bean plants. Then I would say that this defoliation is approaching the level when bean yields can begin to be reduced by leaf feeding. To see what 20% defoliation looks like, see this 2002 ICM Newsletter article on estimating defoliation: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2002/7-29-2002/soydefoliation.html>.

CCA CEU Opportunities. If you didn’t get to the Crop Diagnostic Clinics at FEEL there are still several opportunities. See www.aep.iastate.edu for information. They will be offering a late season crop disease clinic, a soils clinic, and a drainage school yet 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.