IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

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

August 25, 2008

Volume 11, Issue #17

Prepared by
Joel DeJong,
Extension Field Agronomist

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

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

Aphid Update – Soybean aphids may still be a concern for some, particularly if they were planted quite late and have a long way to go to maturity. If soybeans have not reached the R5.5 growth stage you should still be scouting for soybean aphids. Research has shown that treating after the R 5.5 stage of maturity is probably not going to bring much return on the investment. The R5.5 stage is between the R5 stage, when the seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod at one of four uppermost nodes on the main stem, and the R6 stage, when the pod contains a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem. If a bean in the top two nodes matches the R5 description, you probably are at the R5.5 stage. Remember that pre-harvest intervals on insecticides range from 18 to 45 days depending on the product.

Experimental Farm Fall Field Day Set For September 2 - A chance to ask questions of ISU Soil Fertility and Soybean Researchers is a central part of the central part of this year's fall Northwest Iowa Experimental Farm Field Day set for the evening of September 2 at the farm near Calumet in southern O'Brien County.

Palle Pedersen, ISU Extension Soybean Agronomist, will be discussing his research on the impacts of soybean yield, along with other soybean issues. Antonio Mallarino, ISU professor of Agronomy, focusing on soil fertility research, will be sharing the early results of surface runoff data being collected in a unique research project being conducted at the NW Research Farm. As always, both will be answering questions about current issues of concern asked by field day participants.

Evening field day activities get underway at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is free! The farm is located 1/4 mile east of Highway 59 approximately two miles south of Calumet.

White Mold has been found in some NW Iowa fields. I certainly hope it does not progress as rapidly as it did a little more than a decade ago, but it is something we should be watching. Environments that favor Sclerotinia white mold development occur in fields that are highly productive, with tall, thick stands of soybeans. The disease is usually most severe in areas of fields where moisture collects due to fogs and extended dew periods. Temperatures greater than 90 degrees F will arrest disease development. White mold, or Sclerotinia Stem Rot, seems to build up over time. If you have it at low levels this year, but have the right environment the next time you grow beans in that field, we can sometimes end up with quite a bit of injury the next time around. So, scout your fields. If they have White Mold present this year, note that in your records, and try to find good varieties with white mold tolerance that next time you plant soybeans in this field. Want to see pictures or read a little more about the basics of Sclerotinia Stem Rot? Check out this Ohio State publication: http://ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/0045.html.

Bean Leaf Beetles - Remember that this generation of this pest can do damage to pods. This generation is now starting to emerge. As noted by Paul Kassel, ISUE field agronomist based in Spencer, it only takes 3 beetles per foot of row to justify treatment based on $12 per bushel soybeans and $12 per acre treatment. Keep scouting until bean pods on the main stem start to yellow.

Top Dieback in Corn? I have had a couple of discussions with agronomists noting that some cornfields (limited at this time!) seem to be showing some top dieback. Last season other parts of Iowa had this occur, and Alison Robertson posted an article in the Integrated Crop Management Newsletter that discussed this issue: http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/9-10/topdieback.html. Likewise, Bob Nielson at Purdue also posted a newsletter article on this topic in last August's "Corny News Network" website: http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.05/TopLeafDeath-0828.html. If you see this occurring in your field, take a little time to review these articles.