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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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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.

White leaves in corn? As you drive by cornfields recently you have likely noticed a few plants in some fields with white or light yellow leaves in this rapidly growing corn. Last year Dr. Roger Elmore explained why these leaves are bright yellow in an article in the ICM *NEWS: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2008/0711elmorerobertson.htm*. He discusses several possible reasons in this article, but I still maintain the main reason is because something is causing a tie-up of these leaves, and these plants are finally working through the tie-up. Wind could have damaged the midrib of a leaf earlier, and this one tied up the later leaves, perhaps. We used to see that much more frequently when we used dicamba products, but anything that causes a tie-up can cause these plants to exhibit this. Fortunately, it looks like a very low percentage in any field, but it certainly is interesting to observe! I have been asked if this is due to a nutrient deficiency – and frankly, I doubt it.

What about yield loss? I would expect these plants to unfurl within a week or two. If the malformation causes a delay in either growth or development, it could result in yield reductions.

Foliar Fertilization? Recently I have had several discussions with producers about foliar feeding for both corn and soybeans. Most research I have seen has not shown much, if any, response to these applications. Remember, corn and soybeans take up a large amount of N, P and K, during a growing season. This amount cannot be substituted for or compensated with a low foliar rate. If you are considering this, please take a little time to review a recent ICM News article written by John Sawyer and Antonio Mallarino: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0630sawyer.htm. If you are still not certain about foliar fertilization or the benefits of promoted products/systems, then try a few well controlled/replicated strips and monitor crop growth and yield before making applications to large acreage.

Soybean aphid update. More aphid reports are coming in around Iowa, but for the most part they remain at low numbers. Almost all fields I have been into recently have been aphid free! The hot weather of a couple of weeks ago seemed to slow the early growth of this population. Although it may be tempting to "throw in" an insecticide with that final pass of glyphosate, don't do it. Remember insecticides kill both the target pest AND the beneficial insects that control the target pest. Several agronomists and entomologists are reporting that the number of beneficial insects is fairly high in fields. Let's let those beneficial insects do their job. See more discussion in the ICM News:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0624hodgson.htm.

Join Us on the Bus!

On July 22 we are loading a bus from LeMars and Sioux Center to go to the **Upper Midwest Manure Handlers Expo** near Boone. This show will feature dry and liquid applicator demonstrations, and many educational sessions. See their website for details: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

Several great sponsors are helping to cover some of the cost of a bus going down to the Expo, including Roda Manufacturing, Farmers Co-op Society (Sioux Center), Farmers Cooperative Company (Hinton, LeMars, Oyens, Akron) and the Hull Co-op for helping us out on this. Because of their help, it will cost only $20/person to get to the site and get into the field day! Send me an e-mail at jldejong@iastate.edu to reserve a seat.

New Corn Field Guide. The ISU Corn-Soybean Initiative has released the *Corn Field Guide* (CSI 0001). This field guide is similar to the *Soybean Disease Guide* and the A*phid Management Field Guide.* The new guide has sections on corn production, integrated pest management, diseases, insects, and disorders such as herbicide injury and nutrient deficiencies. The *Corn Field Guide* is available from Publications Distribution at ISU Extension: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/Default.aspx.

Reports of Tank Contamination Injury from Laudis. Several Extension field agronomists reported soybean injury from Laudis herbicide during our weekly teleconference. They are seeing injury from herbicides that have remained in the boom for a period of time. A characteristic "W" occurs as the boom empties and fresh herbicide passes through the boom. We have had reports of injury to beans even several tanks after the bean spraying had started, and even after pretty good cleaning procedures have been used. It seems to be getting hung up in the boom somewhere (if it was in the tank it would do more than just the 75-foot long W-shaped pattern), and not getting cleaned out of the boom. I am not positive what is happening, but have thought about screens, or other locations that might "store" this product until later. Some have told me of "dead space" areas at the end of their booms where they think this product might be hanging up. If you have seen this occur, think about how, in your sprayer, this could have occurred.

Will recovery occur? Yes, but it might be slow. When we significantly reduce plant height the chance of yield loss increases. In 2008 several of the fields with areas like this did lose some yield where damaged. Fortunately this injury is usually limited to small areas – but still looks quite striking!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"