

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 3, 2009

Volume 12, Issue #16



Prepared by

Joel DeJong,

Extension Field Agronomist

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

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Soybean Aphid Update: Most reports have soybean aphids at low levels across NW Iowa at the present time, but a couple of fields I have been watching closely now have them on a higher percentage of the plants. Keep scouting! I suspect we will find some fields that will reach treatment thresholds this summer, but I think we will likely also have fields that remain at low levels for the entire year. Check out the ISU Soybean Aphid page for links to lots of soybean aphid management information, including a link to the Minnesota Speed Scouting publication site: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/soybeanaphid/>.

Check Cornfields for Disease Levels: I have received lots of calls on eyespot in corn. The problem? There really is not a good data base to use for making threshold recommendations. In previous issues I referred you to the ICM News to review articles: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>. If you have not reviewed those articles, consider doing that! Also, there is an older publication about eyespot that is available on the web: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM963.pdf>. It reviews incubation time period, and the environment that favors this disease (cool, damp). I hope this helps, at least a little!

I know that we again had areas with significant hail within the past week. That brings up questions about **fungicides on hailed crops**. My best reference? This article: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0713robertsonmueller.htm>. Other hail items can be found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecovery/info/haildamage.htm>.

Purple Leaf Sheath in Corn: This week I've also had calls about discoloration of corn sheaths on plants. Here's a description provided by an agronomist in NW Iowa today – I like it, so I am using it (Thanks Peter Westra!): "I was in a field that had significant mold growth on a majority of the plants. The mold was growing on pollen trapped on the ear leaf next to the ear. In some of the cases this mold was creating black spots on the husks of the ear. Usually the black spots were one layer deep, but occasionally they went two or more layers. None of the spots reached the ear." He sent pictures that confirmed it was Purple Leaf Sheath – not a disease, but fungi and bacteria feeding on the pollen. Don't worry, it really isn't a problem and I have observed it almost every year. To see a description, check out this "Corn Disorders/Non-Diseases" web site:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~ccbblock/photos/corn4.htm>. This is the one at the bottom of the page.

Extension Crop Update, continued

Dig Soybean Roots for SCN – This is the time of year to dig roots every time you are in a soybean field and look for Soybean Cyst Nematode females on the soybean roots. For help on scouting and other SCN questions, look at ISU's Soybean Cyst Nematode web page:

<http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/html/soybeancyst/index.htm>.

Root Pit Meeting Aug. 27 - ISU Extension, the Iowa Learning Farm project, and the NW Iowa On-farm Research project will be holding a root pit, crop growth and development meeting at the Nate Ronsiek farm near Hawarden in Sioux County from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Watch later newsletters for more details of the event!

"Thanks for Subscribing!"