

Crop Happenings

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Issue 9



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*Serving Boone,
Hamilton, Hardin,
Humboldt, Marshall,
Story, Tama, Webster,
and Wright County*

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Weather note. Light, gentle rains were received most of last week; however, strong winds and heavy rain were received last Friday and Saturday across central Iowa. Severe hail was received near Sheldon and south of Waverly late last week. The hail damage was extensive – to say the least. It's important to watch humidity levels with all this rain. Humidity is generally pretty conducive to foliar leaf development.

White leaves in corn. Last week we all saw several corn fields with many, many white flag leaves. This was because the whorl had been twisted or wrapped prior to these leaves emerging. I didn't notice nearly as many white leaves over the weekend; it appears that this symptom is going away.

Soybean aphid update. Brian Lang, Extension Field Agronomist from Decorah, reports that aphid numbers in his research plots have remained constant over the past 4 weeks. He feels that the heat wave which occurred over the past 2-3 weeks really held aphid numbers down. Brian did note that he has not seen any winged aphids yet but expects to within the next couple weeks. Of course aphid infestations really spread during winged aphid flights. Bottom line: continue to carefully monitor soybean fields for aphid infestations.

Corn diseases. Agronomists in Nebraska are reporting that gray leaf spot is already on the ear leaf in southeast Nebraska. See their article in the [Crop Watch](#) newsletter. Extension field agronomists in southern Iowa are also reporting GLS on lower leaves in the canopy. Corn eyespot is more the problem in central and north central Iowa. Watch continuous corn fields for both diseases. Good pictures of eyespot are in a [July 18, 2008, Integrated Crop Management NEWS](#) article.

Any adult corn rootworms? Adult corn rootworm beetles SHOULD be emerging in fields this week. Watch for them, and monitor silk feeding. I'd be interested in hearing if you find any and where.

Bacterial blight in soybeans. This disease should start developing in soybean fields soon. Key things to watch are yellow halos around brown lesions on leaves. The upper canopy often has a tattered appearance.

Newsletters from others. My fellow Extension field agronomists write excellent newsletters. I'd recommend you scan them to pick up on other problems occurring in Iowa. There's a link on my web page: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/fsnews.html>. There's also a link to newsletters from other states: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/fsnews.html>.

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