

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
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With the return of more seasonal weather, watch for the following insects and diseases as you scout your crops. The following excerpts are from Brian Lang, ISU Extension Field Agronomist's Crop Notes.

The first corn rootworm adults (beetles) should start to appear the week of July 7th, just a little later than normal.

All corn is protected from the European corn borer up to about seventeen to twenty-one inches extended leaf height by a naturally occurring compound in corn called DIMBOA; beyond that height, scout non-Bt corn borer corn for first generation corn borer. Check out the following ICM newsletter: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2001/7-2-2001/scoutecb.html> for more details.

Wet weather patterns hold down populations of many insects including potato leaf hopper. Now that we have had more than two weeks of sunny warm weather, watch for this pest to increase in population. For recommendations on scouting and treatment of this insect, check out the June 2007 Potato Leaf Hopper Fact Sheet BL-20.

The first finding of soybean aphids has been reported in northeast Iowa. The annual soybean aphid research site near Decorah has four percent infestation with colony sizes of five, nine, seventeen and twenty-five. Last week there were some initial reports of low numbers of aphids in Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and farther east. Early indications show a trend similar to 2004.

Western Bean Cutworm pheromone traps are now being set up across the Midwest. More traps will be placed in Iowa. To monitor the western bean cutworm, check out the trapping website at: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/trap/westernbeancutworm/>.

There are reports of high levels of corn earworm trap captures east and south of Iowa. An economic impact due to earworm ear feeding is typically not a concern but this year's late planting and slow development of corn could result in noticeable leaf feeding injury by corn earworm larvae that are in cornfields in the vegetative stage. Dr. Steffey, University of Illinois Professor of Entomology stated, "With crop conditions and prices being what they are, use good judgment when making decisions about managing corn earworm larvae feeding on corn leaves...; keep in mind that defoliation of corn often looks worse than it truly is in economic terms".

Brown Spot, also called Septoria Leaf Spot, continues to be evident on soybeans this spring. The disease appears every year, but usually only infects lower leaves and does not significantly impact yield. However, if the disease advances up the canopy during the reproductive stages of the plant, it may warrant a foliar fungicide treatment. Be careful not to mistake Bacterial blight for Brown spot. Right now Bacterial blight is showing up in the upper canopy. This is a bacterial disease, not a fungal disease. Foliar fungicide has no affect on Bacterial blight.

Soybean rust is unlikely to spread from the coastal region (South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) the first half of July due to a weak spore source in the south, according to Dr. Yang's predictive model.

For more information on insects and diseases, contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979.