

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

CROP NOTES for May 12, 2020

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang>

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WEATHER

Growing Degree Days (GDD)

Temperatures warm back to normal by Thursday, and warmer than normal temperatures next week. For northeast Iowa, GDDs ran about normal from late April to May 4 (8 to 9/day). Then accumulated only 3/day from May 5 to May 11 when normal was 9 to 10/day. On Thursday May

14 we will be back to normal on GDDs, and then next week receiving an average of 17 GDD/day compared to the normal of 11/day.

Soil Temperatures for Warm-Season Annuals

The next concern over soil temperatures is when its warm enough to plant warm-season annual forages like sorghum-sudangrass, millet and teff. For this we want an average 4-inch soil temperature of 65°F or better. Coming off of our cold spell, the current average temperature is still in the low 50's. That will change quickly with the warm-up into next week, and particularly with next week Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday max./min. air temperatures expected to reach 80F/60F. Check average soil temperatures at:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/soiltemphistory.html>

CORN EMERGENCE

Scouting

Some of the earliest planted corn fields are emerging. Initial emergence is an important time to do some scouting. Did you get your intended plant population, seed depth placement, inter-row plant spacing, or why not? Take notes for adjustments for next spring if needed. Are there any insect pests or seedling disease problems? The following article runs through the grocery list of things to look for with this first scouting:

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2019/05/evaluating-corn-stands>

Not Emerged Yet?

The cool last week had about 40 fewer GDD than normal. That is at least a 4-day delay in emergence. To get an estimate of GDD relative to your planting dates, go to the Iowa Mesonet at: <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/GIS/apps/coop/gplot.phtml?var=gdd50&year=2020>

Select your parameters of GDD base 50 and your planting date. Click on "Make Plot", and you will get GDD for various locations in Iowa. Although ignore the Decorah location at this time. The equipment is running high and needs some maintenance. From this website, accumulated GDD as of April 20 is about 150 GDD (corn should have emerged by now), as of April 27 is about 105 GDD (corn is close to emergence), and as of May 4 is about 36 GDD (about a week away from emergence with the good warming trend into next week).

INSECTS

Iowa Moth Trapping Network Update on True Armyworm & Black Cutworm

True Armyworm. Moth trapping continues to be light and sporadic. In addition, the freezing temperatures last Saturday morning wiped the slate clean of moths and egg laying up to that time. Traps will continue to be monitored with results reported on the ICM News and future Crop Notes.

Black Cutworm. Trapping has been light and sporadic, but Moth captures have been sufficient to predict initial scouting dates for this pest (May 25 for northeast Iowa). Unlike for True Armyworm, Black Cutworm eggs can survive very cold temperatures. Its plenty early yet, but if

you care to read up on scouting and identification of Black Cutworm, here is current information: <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2020/05/2020-scouting-recommendations-black-cutworm>

Common Stalk Borer Egg Laying Window

For those that lose corn plants in the first few rows along grassy field borders or grass-back terraces, you may have a problem with Common Stalk Borer.



There are 3 basic options for controlling this pest.

Option 1 was to use a controlled burn in late March-early April of the grass field border of the corn field to kill the eggs. The over-wintering stalk borer eggs are on the dead grass residue bordering corn fields.

Option 2 is to apply an insecticide over the grass field border during the egg hatch window. This window runs about 575 to 750 degree days (base 41 from Jan. 1). Current degree days (DD) for regions along Hwy 9 and Hwy 20 are 420 DD and 480 DD, respectively. Current predictions to 600 DD for regions along Hwy 9 and Hwy 20 are May 20 and May 18, respectively.

Option 3 is to wait for larval migration from the grass field border to the first few rows of corn, and apply an insecticide over the grass field border and first few rows of corn. This is timed at 1,300-1,700 DD, which is usually around mid-June.

Also, some Bt corn controls or suppresses stalk borer and some do not. Check the “ Handy Bt Trait Table” for those

products: https://agrilife.org/lubbock/files/2020/02/BtTraitTable_FEB_2020.pdf

Alfalfa Weevil

The rather mild winter favors better overwintering of alfalfa weevil. However, we have not had problems with this pest for many years which is why we scout first to see if there is a problem. We start scouting for alfalfa weevil in northeast Iowa once degree days (DD) exceed 250 (Base 48 from Jan. 1). Current DD in northeast IA are about 240 DD along Hwy 9 and 270 DD along Hwy 20. Greater risks would be on south-facing slopes and proximity to woodlands. The quickest and easiest way to initially scout for Alfalfa Weevil is to use a sweep net just to survey a field. If there are some alfalfa weevil in the net, then refer to the scouting procedure and threshold information in this May 6, 2020 article

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2020/05/alfalfa-weevils-active-throughout-iowa>

DISEASE

Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic

FYI, the clinic is available to serve your needs. However, it is running at reduced capacity with first preference to operate via email information and pictures for a free diagnosis if possible. Try this route first. If unsuccessful, then you can submit/mail an actual sample on a fee basis. Please contact the clinic at pidc@iastate.edu with your sample inquiries. If an actual plant or insect sample needs to be submitted, the instructions and submission sheet is available at:

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/pidc>

Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) in Wheat

Current limited rainfall in northeast Iowa reduces the risk of any serious occurrence of FHB in wheat, commonly called scab. However, we still have some time before initial flowering (Feekes growth stage 10.5.1) in order to target a foliar fungicide application. Scout fields as your wheat enters this critical period for FHB. If considering a fungicide, suggested products include Prosaro, Caramba, Miravis Ace, and Proline. Replicated research indicates all of the suggested products are most effective on FHB when applied between Feekes 10.5.1 through 5 days after 10.5.1.

To help define Feekes 10.5.1... after heads have cleared the ligule, you generally have 3-5 days before the start of flowering. FGS 10.5.1 is defined as the point where 50% of the main tillers have started to flower. For an picture of Feekes 10.5.1, check the Purdue University publication on page 5: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-422.pdf>

What is FHB? <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/resources/articles/diseases/fusarium-head-blight-of-wheat>

FARM MANAGEMENT

Cash Rental Rate Survey

Every May ISU Extension publishes an updated “Cash Rental Rates for Iowa Survey”. The May 2020 survey was just posted at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-10.html>

Also recently updated (March 2020) is the Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey, at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-10.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14, Crop Scouting Basics via a Free Webinar

A free webinar on crop scouting basics is offered on May 14 starting at 9:00 AM. Sessions include corn and soybean growth and development, checking emerged stands, and weed, insect and disease identification. Its free but you must register to participate. Go to:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/scout/>

June 10, Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference, Virtual

This conference presents the latest research on issues concerning the dairy industry including feed efficiency, calves and transition cows. Participate live on the virtual conference.

Registration fee: \$75 before June 1, \$100 after June 1. Live presentations and Q&A sessions will be recorded and available to participants for 60 days after the conference. Registered participants will be emailed where to receive links to the conference recordings and PDF materials. Program details are at: <http://fourstatedairy.org/> or contact Jim Salfer at salfe001@umn.edu , or 320-203-6093.

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