Winter Wheat and Barley are Flowering

Many malting barley fields started to flower late last week a little ahead of wheat. September and early October planted wheat fields have been in flower this week and many were peak yesterday (5/27). I have confirmations that fields were being sprayed with Prosaro and Caramba the last couple of days. I also have seen some powdery mildew up on the flag leaf so this flowering fungicide application will keep that from spreading. I have received some calls asking about “what does wheat look like when it is flowering?” See pictures below to view anthers emerged from malting barley and wheat heads.

Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches flowering. Our NWNY region is still showing low incidence as of 5/28. Directly below us, PA has some medium and high areas of risk beginning to show up. This could change with the weather today and Saturday.

Assessing Frost Damage in Corn and Soybeans

Unfortunately, some areas in the region were hit with some frost early Saturday morning. Temperatures were recorded as low as the upper 20’s in some areas and frost injury was evident particularly on our earliest planted crops. Soybean plants are at a greater risk than corn because their growing point(s) are all above ground after emergence. Corn’s growing point stays below ground until the V5-V6 growth stage and so it can stay protected even though all above ground tissue turns brown.

Give it a couple of days to see if plants are going to recover or not. It doesn’t seem possible but corn will start to send out a new leaf and soybeans will send out a trifoliate if an axillary bud is still alive. Plant population counts will then have to be assessed to see if a replant is warranted. See article from Purdue to learn more about low temperatures and frost injury, http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.02/frost_freeze-0520.html.

More Black Cutworms Found

Black Cutworms (BCW) are being found while scouting across the region. During our Corn TAG Team in Livingston County yesterday we were able to find a couple that had been feeding on V4 stage corn. Plants were wilted as the worms fed on the plants at the soil line and were burrowing up into the plant (see picture). The culprits were easily found buried in the soil nearby. WNY Crop Management Association is developing pest maps based on their consultants findings and are actively recording a number of pests across our region, including BCW. They had 29 incidences of BCW as of yesterday. These fields were primarily west and south of Batavia. Looks like now is a very crucial stage to be out there scouting!
CROP ALERT

May 29, 2015

Cornell Small Grains Management Field Day
At Musgrave Research Farm,
being held from 9:30 am to noon on Thursday, June 4th.
See agenda below