

## CROP ALERT

July 10, 2015

*Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension*

### Wheat and Malting Barley Harvest has Begun

The first wheat and malting barley fields were harvested last weekend in WNY. Yields looked good with low DON (vomitoxin) detected. However, wheat was beginning to sprout! This will continue to become an issue with rain yesterday and potentially more early next week. Most small grains were between 20 and 30% moisture this week. Looks like we have the potential for a couple of good drying days in a row. On good days, wheat will dry down between 2 and 3% moisture a day. Combines need to be ready to go and check some grain moistures in the earliest planted fields this weekend. If moistures are at least 20% and you are drying on-farm, best to harvest now before the next rain. I believe this is the best step for getting the highest quality grain you can this year. Much of the literature says that we can lose a pound in test weight with each rain event after grain maturity.



*Malting barley ready for harvest  
Source: Mike Stanyard*

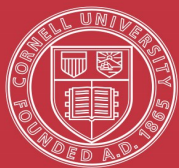
If you saw quite a few heads infected with Fusarium head scab, then you may want to increase combine fan speed to blow those shrunken infected kernels out. Research at Ohio State showed that when harvesting wheat from scabby fields, increasing the fan speed and air flow through the combine can reduce the amount of scabby kernels and DON (vomitoxin) in the grain lot by an average 30 to 45%, and increase test weight by about 6% (<http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2015/2015-20/#1>). **If testing confirms low DON levels, return to normal fan speeds to avoid blowing out healthy kernels.**

### Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) Moths have Begun to Emerge

The first WBC adults started to be caught in NY this week. The WBC trap network is set up again across the state to monitor adult emergence. Peak emergence has been around August 1 for the past four years we have monitored. Females prefer to lay their eggs in pre-tassel corn. Larvae will briefly feed on the tassel and pollen before moving inside the corn ear. Even though we have not yet detected any economic injury to corn in NY, WBC moth catches have doubled each season. Corn plants with Bt's such as Herculex and Viptera will have protection from feeding injury. I will keep you updated as the season progresses.



*Western Bean Cutworm Adult  
Source: Mike Stanyard*



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### Soybean Update

Earlier planted soybeans are flowering this week. Unfortunately, this now means they are susceptible to White Mold. If the summer continues to be warm, wet, and humid, conditions are perfect for white mold to become an issue this year. The tiny white mold mushrooms emerge and release their spores up into the canopy. These spores land on flowers and feed on the decaying petals and gain access and infect the rest of the plant. If you have a history of white mold, what can you do now? We have some fungicides that are now labeled for suppression of white mold. The challenge is that a fungicide needs to protect every flower. Soybean plants continuously flower. White mold only needs to get on one unprotected flower and the game is over. Therefore, you will need a minimum of two and possibly three applications to protect every flower on a plant. Some of these are Topsin, Endura, Proline, and Aproach. Some of these fields are into full flower so I hope it is not already too late. Please let us know if you have plans to do any fungicide spraying so we can follow up with any results, good or bad.



**White Mold Mushrooms**  
Source: Mike Stanyard



**Brown Spot on Soybean**  
Photo Courtesy of Mac Ewell

This weather is also conducive for Brown Spot on the lower leaves. This fungus is usually not economic if it stays on the lower leaves and the top leaves remain clean. Brown lesions will coalesce and leaves turn yellow and fall off.

Some weeds have grown a little larger this spring because weather conditions have prevented timely herbicide applications. We saw more marehail last fall than usual and Russ Hahn showed us at Corn Congress that we have glyphosate resistance in NY. If you have a field like this picture, PUT SOMETHING IN WITH THE GLYPHOSATE!!!!



**Photo courtesy of Donn Branton (not his field ☺) Marehail Gone Wild!**