Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

CROP ALERT

July 24, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Wheat Update

Many of our wheat yields across the region have been between 70-80 bushels. Not bad for what kind of growing season it has had to deal with. I am getting a few reports of fields 100+ mostly where rainfall amounts were lower on average this year. VOM has not been bad < 1 ppm in most of the region. I am hearing of some hotspots in the Finger Lakes, 2.5 – 6 ppm VOM, which have been rejected at the mill. There are also reports of increasing spouting and lower falling numbers as we move further into harvest. Both of these issues are higher with increased rainfall. Hopefully, everyone will be able to wrap up wheat harvest by next week. Spring barley, triticale, and rye will be next to be combined.

Soybean Nodulation

Now that soybeans are starting to come around, I have been receiving questions and concerns about the number of nodules on soybean roots. Great to see that more folks are out looking closer at their beans! Saturated cold soils have made it a tough year for the beneficial bacteria to find an appropriate site on root hairs to form nodules. I have seen complete nodulation failures on extremely dry and wet springs and we definitely had a wet one. Shawn Conley from University of Wisconsin does a good job summarizing nodulation questions in his recent article, http://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2015/07/the-nebulous-of-non-nodulating-soybean-in-2015/. He states that it is not about quantity of nodules but quality. Remember, when you break open a nodule, it should be pink inside if it is actively producing nitrogen. Purdue University also has a video online called "Soybean Nitrogen Stress After Wet Conditions," http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop/2015/Issue15/. They state that during the vegetative stages there should be double the number of nodules as there are trifoliates (ie. V7 should have at least 14 nodules). If nodules are absent or greatly reduced, 50 pounds of N is warranted to help the plants along until nodules can get themselves established.

Corn Diseases

Continue to watch for developing leaf diseases. Many fields have begun to tassel (VT) and it is a crucial time for scouting corn and determining if a fungicide application is warranted. We have had reports this week of severe **Northern corn leaf blight (NCLB)** on sweet corn in the region. This tells us that lots of inoculum is in the atmosphere and any susceptible varieties are vulnerable. These fields should be watched carefully! Hopefully, you have planned ahead and planted hybrids with the highest level of resistance. Even though spores can move long distances, continuous corn fields and no-till fields with lots of corn residue are also the most vulnerable from local spore development and dispersal. **Eyespot** has also been found earlier than normal across the region. Go to Cornell's Field Crop webpage to learn more about both of these diseases, http://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/corn/diseases-corn.

Northern Corn Leaf Blight Lesions
Source: Gary Bergstrom

Eyespot
Photo courtesy of Jon Bulkeley

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

CROP ALERT

July 24, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Uncommon Weeds this Week

I was told about some really tall weeds that were canopying over top of 6 foot tall corn. I was intrigued and had some ideas before I got there. Unfortunately, it was a weed that I use to battle in my days in the Midwest …….. **Giant Ragweed**. Over the years I have found small patches in hedgerows or on the edge of parking lots but it usually is not a problem like its cousin, common ragweed. If you see this weed, let me know. There is a concern that it may be moving in on machinery coming from the Midwest and yes, there are glyphosate resistant populations. Our best course of action is to get it controlled early before it spreads any further.

The second uncommon weed was one I knew I had not seen before but have had other people tell me about it. It is has very distinct rectangle cotyledons and is a major fiber producing crop in the south. Yes, this is a **cotton plant**. This was in a soybean field that had plenty of manure applied to it in the fall. Cottonseed is fed as part of the dairy cow ration. These seeds have had quite the journey and survived to germinate. The smaller plants seemed to be hurt by an application of Glyphosate/Harmony just last week but the larger plants looked perfectly healthy. I will continue to observe this field to see what happens.

I have received some more disturbing marestail in soybean pictures. I know of one producer who had the marestail issue last year and planted Liberty-Link soybeans this year. I saw the before and after pictures ….. Smoked them! Also, Penn State is reporting finding Palmer amaranth in multiple locations across PA. See article and pictures at http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/news/2015/07/palmer-amaranth-continues-to-spread-in-pennsylvania. We need to be on the lookout for this member of the pigweed family. Remember it has extremely long seed heads.

Young Cotton Seedling
***Photo* courtesy of Chad Stoeckl**

Giant Ragweed
Source: Mike Stanyard