

## CROP ALERT

August 7, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Soybean Aphids (SBA) on the Rise

I have been able to find SBA very easily in every field I have checked this week. The majority of our soybeans are now into the reproductive stages (many are R3) so we will need to keep a close eye on rising aphid populations. Numbers have been low, <10/plant but they will be building. I have received reports from crop consultants of above threshold fields (>250/plant) up along Lake Erie. This field did not have a seed insecticide at planting. When scouting, look at the newest unfurled trifoliolate at the very top of the plant. Most of what I am seeing is a few large aphids surrounded by lots of small babies. But pretty soon those babies will be having babies! Remember that right now every aphid you see is female and reproducing.

### White Mold is Finally Showing Itself



With the wet weather this year, I knew it was setting up for a bad white mold season. I started getting reports this week of large brown areas in soybeans (see picture) and white mold confirmation this week. The white mold spores entered through the early flowers and are now systemic and killing the plants. If you look closely on the stem, you can see at what node it entered. The node(s) below the infection will still be green. Fungicides will not help plants that are already infected. I have growers that switched all their varieties to the best tolerances their seed company offered and others who sprayed fungicides but white mold still took over. Unfortunately, the weather has done everything to favor white mold and even though we are doing everything we can

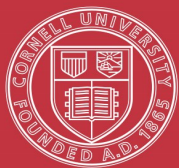
culturally and chemically (variety selection, wider rows, rotation, fungicides), it is not enough. Until we get true plant resistance to this disease, we will always be at risk.

### Late Weed Control in Soybeans

I have received quite a few phone calls regarding “How late can I apply glyphosate to my soybeans?”. It depends on what plant growth stage your beans are currently at. Monsanto’s Roundup labels state that it can be applied through the full flowering stage (R2) but not after the R3 stage has begun. The R3 stage can be determined by looking at the top three nodes of the plant that have a fully emerged trifoliolate. If any of those nodes have a pod that is 3/16” long, you are at R3. From what I have seen, the majority of our beans are at R3 this week.

### Small Grain Update

Wheat, rye, and barley look to be all in the bin. Overall, with the tough growing season, I think most are pleased with their yields. Spring grain harvest began last week. Spring malting barley yields have been between 40-45 bu/a. The quality has been much better than its winter cousin this year. Protein levels have been hitting their goals and falling numbers are good. Oat harvest has just started and fields have looked good. The winter grain planting season is not far away. The Cornell small grains variety trial date for 2015 has not been published as of this date. However, you can go to the Cornell Plant Breeding webpage, <https://plbrgen.cals.cornell.edu/research-extension/small-grains/cultivar-testing>, and view all the variety trial data up until 2014 for wheat, barley and rye. I’ll forward 2015 data as soon as it gets released!



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### Corn Diseases More Prevalent, Fungicides Being Applied



*NCLB lesions at Corn Tag team Meeting in Geneseo on 8/4*

*Source: Mike Stanyard*

I am getting plenty of reports of Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB) becoming more active in fields and lesions are building. Some fields have lower rates of infection <10% and are being closely watched. We do have quite a few who have pulled the trigger on some acres that were about 50% of the plants infected with a lesion below the ear leaf. It is important to protect the ear leaf and the leaves above as the plant is filling the ear. I have not had any reports of Gray Leaf Spot in the region yet. For a good fact sheet on NCLB go here, <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-84-W.pdf>.

### Corn Insect Update

Corn insects have not been an issue so far this year. I think a lot of the soil dwellers did not do well with all the rain and saturated soils. Corn rootworms (CRW) populations are most vulnerable when they first hatch and soils become saturated and they drown. I am still hearing that there are pockets of CRW beetles feeding on silks but clipping should be minimal this year. Japanese beetles are still prevalent and some are clipping silks. However, in most fields that I have checked pollination looks very good despite some minor clipping. Second generation armyworm can be found feeding in pockets around the region. You just hope that you find them early or your field can look like the one below. Ouch!!!



*Photo courtesy of Kip Falkner,  
Carolina Eastern Crocker*

### It's Time for Cover Crops

The weather and soil moisture are perfect for putting in cover crops. Wheat acres are off and there are some preventative planted acres that need something other than weeds growing on them! There are plenty to choose from but I like a combination to get more diversity and improve soil health. I just wrote an article in this month's Ag Focus on planting cover crops, rates and current price estimates. It can also be viewed on our team webpage at: <http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=496&crumb=forages|2>