

## CROP ALERT

August 21, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Soybean Aphid Populations Need to be Watched Carefully!

I continue to get reports of SBA populations over the 250/plant threshold. Some of these fields have already been sprayed and others are asking "should these fields be sprayed". Most of the soybeans that I scouted this week were in the R5 growth stage (pod on the top four nodes had a seed at least 1/8" long in the pod). The plants look excellent due to the current growing conditions and adequate moisture during this critical pod filling stage in August. Soybeans are not moisture stressed right now (unless your area has been unfortunate and missing rain) and so they can tolerate higher numbers of SBA feeding. I hate to send growers into R5 beans unless it is absolutely necessary. If you are at 250 per plant and at R5, watch them carefully right now. Don't be too anxious to spray and make sure that their numbers are increasing. If your soybeans are still at R3 and R4 (One pod in 3/4" long on one of the top four nodes) and aphid numbers are increasing, I would be more prone to treat them.

One of our best biological controls, a naturally occurring fungus, is very active right now and I saw it wipe out a very thick



population of SBA overnight this week in Wayne County. Look for pink/red colored aphids on the leaves. These infected aphids will die, turn black and continue to spread the fungus (See picture from this field). I am seeing lots of ladybird adults and larvae in some fields and none in others. They will continue to spread slowly but the fungus is much quicker and more effective.

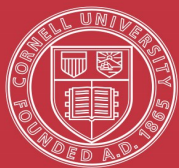


### Spider Mites

Along with SBA, I also have been getting calls on spider mites. Many of these have been in areas that may not have been getting the rain or are showing some drought stress on well drained fields or knolls. There is no established threshold for spider mites in beans (like aphids). A generic textbook would say "Control may be warranted when infested plants have substantial spotting or leaf yellowing and live mites, but before mites cause browning and leaf drop." Soybeans can deal with small mite populations but when you throw in drought stress it is a different ball game. If the plants are starting to flip to conserve moisture, you have yellowing leaves, and mites are present, it's time to spray in my opinion. Even more so if you also have lots of soybean aphids present. See adjacent picture of early mite feeding (white stippling) on the underside of the leaf. Mites are tough to see without a hand lens. Shake a plant over a white piece of paper and you will see the small dots running around if they are present.



Straight pyrethroid insecticides are not effective against spider mites. Organophosphate products such as Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) and Dimethoate are recommended for best management. There are some Pyrethroid + Chlorpyrifos products such as Tundra Supreme and Hero which also would be effective.



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### Soybean Diseases Starting to Show



I am starting to see more brown dead plants showing up out in soybean fields. With all the moisture it is not a surprise. I have seen **Phytophthora, Northern Stem Canker and White Mold**. If you have a history of white mold, it probably is showing itself. Look for the brown or wilting top leaves. Go down to the stem and you should find the white fuzz at the node where it infected the plant. Look for the black reproductive structures in that white fuzz. You can also double check by splitting the stalk. If it is white mold, these black sclerotia will also be in the hollow stem. I am very interested in any fungicide side-by-side plots. If you have sprayed Topsin, Endura or Aproach and have an untreated check in the same field, please give me a call.

Northern Stem Canker (NSC) was first confirmed throughout our region last year. It has the same symptomology as white mold but no white fuzz or sclerotia on the plant or in the stem. It can also be distinguished from Phytophthora if you look at the lower stem. Phytophthora infects from the soil so the stem will be brown from the soil up (see picture). NSC infects further up the plant and therefore the lower stem will be green.



I also had one report of **Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS)** from Ontario County that was confirmed by Dr. Gary Bergstrom at Cornell. I have not seen this disease very often in our region but it does have a very distinct mosaic leaf coloration of brown, green and yellow (see picture) which makes it stand out. **Brown Stem Rot (BSR)** can have a similar leaf symptomology but can be distinguished from SDS if you split the stem. BSR has a distinctive brown pith where SDS will not.

### Pre-Harvest Forage Field Day August 26th

The Cornell Cooperative Extension NWNY Team has put together this timely field day to help dairy producers get forages harvested and into the bunk for maximum quality at feedout. See the attached brochure for morning speaker agenda and chopper presentations from local dealers in the afternoon.



# Pre-Harvest Forage Day

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

## Under-the-Tent Talks

**Corn Harvest** – maturity, hybrid differences, digestibility, harvest considerations

Ev Thomas – Oak Point Agronomics, Hammond, NY

**Hay & Alternative Winter Forage Crops** – hay-in-a-day, double cropping, triticale and sorghum, harvest factors affecting nutrients and quality

Tom Kilcer – Advanced Ag Systems, Kinderhook, NY

**Preservation** – Inoculant & bunk plastic choices

Todd Ward – Direct Dairy Nutrition Services, LLC, Delevan, NY

**Poor Fermentation** – mycotoxins, binders, what to look for in your silage due to the conditions of the 2015 growing season

Max Hawkins – Alltech, Noblesville, IN

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

## Lunch Off the Grill, Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Dairy Products & Refreshments

## Mulligan Farms

5403 Barber Rd. Avon, NY

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wed. August 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

No registration necessary

1:15 PM - 3:00 PM

## Harvest Equipment Displays and Information Presentation

Attendees will have time after lunch to walk around the equipment on display and then each dealer will highlight the features of their harvesting equipment and answer questions. They will inform the audience of the distinctive features of harvesting machinery, processing units, maintenance points, calibration and on-board technology.

For more information visit:

[www.nwnyteam.org](http://www.nwnyteam.org)

Please, NO self-guided tours of the farm for Bio-Security & Safety reasons.



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