

Checking the Back Forty



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Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 27, 2012

No doubt no two years are alike and certainly 2012 is living up to the tradition. The 2012 growing season started with May temperatures in mid March and deep freezes in April.

Table 1 below has Growing Degree Days (GDD) at 2 week intervals since the first corn was planted the week of April 23. Table 2 is the rainfall since April 1.

The 2012 season continues with GDDs ahead and though since April 1 for the most part we are rainfall ahead, we have had weeks such as the past week where rainfall was behind. Remember corn needs about 110 GDDs from planting to germination with soybeans needing similar heat units.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days (GDD)-Base 50°F						
	High	Low	Avg	Departure from normal	Week of May 21-27	Since April 22, 2012	Departure from normal	Since May 7, 2012	Departure from normal	Since May 20, 2012	Departure from normal
Cobleskill	83	48	66	8	112	256	87	230	97	112	56
Morrisville	85	52	68	12	129	271	111	229	102	129	76
Norwich	88	49	68	10	126	285	111	236	100	126	69
Oneonta	88	50	69	13	132	316	164	261	140	132	80

Table 2. Rainfall Data

Station	Precipitation (Inches) 1/			
	Week	Departure from normal	Season	Departure from normal
Cobleskill	0.37	-0.50	7.14	0.69
Morrisville	0.48	-0.41	7.59	1.27
Norwich	0.63	-0.24	7.00	0.37
Oneonta	0.29	-0.69	6.76	-0.49

Right now early planted corn is in the 4-5 leaf stage. Corn should be sidedressed with nitrogen at the V6 stage. Looking ahead it should take 1250 GDDs for 96-100 RM hybrids and 1300 GDDs for 101-105 RM hybrids to reach tasseling/silking.

From the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service New York Field Office and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

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Potato Leafhopper Present

We are starting to find Potato Leafhoppers (PLH) present in new seedings and in second cutting alfalfa. Yesterday we were in second cutting alfalfa stands 6-7 inches tall that were over threshold and should be controlled with insecticide. Harvest is always a good control method if there is enough alfalfa present to harvest. PLH will move on to fields with newer growth. New seedings should receive some special attention as there always seems to be enough leaves left on the young plants that harvest does not always drive the PLH away. Check all regrowth, new seeding or established stands, after harvest with a sweep net for the presence of these insects. To determine economic thresholds the table below from the 2012 Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management:



<http://ipmguidelines.org/FieldCrops/Chapters/CH04/CH04-10.aspx>

Average stem length	Leafhopper/sweep
less than 3 in. (new seedings)	0.2
3 to 7 in.	0.5
8 to 10 in.	1
11 to 14 in.	2
15 in. or above	If leafhoppers exceed 2.0 per sweep and if regrowth is within 1 week of harvest, no action needed. If not, use a short-residue insecticide.

Using a 15 inch sweep net and using 10 sweeps at 5 locations in a field determine the number the average number of PLH per sweep. Get the height of your alfalfa and look at the table above to determine if your average number of PLH per sweep is greater than the economic threshold indicated above. If it is above the threshold treatment or harvest is warranted.



Counting on a post-emergence weed control program in corn: NOW is the time!

With many things to do in the field this time of year you may be planning on a post emergence herbicide program for your corn but time has slipped by without it. Check your fields now to see if weed and corn height is appropriate for the herbicides you have selected. You might find given the good growing conditions weeds and corn have progressed faster than you would have thought. Post-emergence herbicides can provide good control of weeds but if delayed can cause yield losses from weed competition.