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Checking the Back Forty

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Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, June 10, 2012

We ended the week of June 10 with corn looking yellow from cooler weather, night temperatures in particular. In Table 1 you can see the average temperature was 4-5°F lower than normal. It was amazing in the past two days to see corn with 80°F+ temperatures turn a nice dark green and grow a bit. GDDs remain above normal by 4-7 days. Table 2 shows there was not much rain as we were behind for the week and remain only slightly above normal for the season. Hard to believe given the difficulty at getting some fields planted and a good drying day for hay over the past couple of weeks.

The early planted corn is at the V6 leaf stage with the growing point now above grown and developing a root system. The plant ready to go through a rapid growth phase.

Table 1. Growing Degree Days

	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days (GDD)-Base 50°F						
Station	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	77	44	58	-5	57	415	96	389	106	271	65
Morrisville	78	43	58	-4	56	403	103	361	94	261	68
Norwich	80	45	58	-4	57	446	124	397	113	287	82
Oneonta	78	44	56	-5	46	480	192	425	168	296	108

Table 2. Rainfall Data

	Precipitation (Inches) 1/			
Station	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

It should take about 450 GDDs to get to that V5-6 stage and a new leaf should appear for every 70 GDDs accumulated.

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

Continued…..

Armyworm

Several emails have been sent alerting you to the presence of armyworms in the area. Although the largest numbers of armyworms have been found in western NY you should continue to be on the lookout for local hot spots. There seems to be on going confusion over this spottiness which if you don't have armyworms is a good thing. To be clear you may have armyworms in fields but your neighbor a mile down the road may not or vice versa.

Over the next week you would be advised to continue to check the fields where armyworms are most likely to be found :

1. grass or mostly grass hayfields especially those that are now second cutting fields and you may be looking at harvesting that second cutting soon
2. corn fields that were late planted into grass fields, notill or tilled ground or fields planted into small grain cover crop.
3. corn fields with grassy weeds, quackgrass and other perennials or even annual grasses like crabgrass. Fields that may be planned for post-emergence weed control and the grassy weeds get a little ahead have been a target in the past.
4. small grain fields

Look for armyworms to be on the ground and undercover during the day, they feed at night. They won't be in the ground but under any material they can find to crawl under.

Consider treatment if grass hay fields are have a consistent population of 3-5 armyworms per square foot range. Don't just look in one spot, you may find 5 and then look other places and find none. Recommendations in corn are for at least 3 per plant in the whorl and they are less than ¾ of an inch then consider treatment. There is no reason to treat in preventative fashion for armyworms if they are not present. Also questions have been raised about second and third generation armyworms. There are second and third generations of armyworms in a summer but have never been know to be a problem. When the moths for the second and third generation fly off there are many places they may find attractive to lay eggs and is never concentrated as in the first generation.