



CROP ALERT

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Small Grain Harvest

Across western NY winter malting barley, winter wheat, and winter rye are all turning into amber waves of grain, drying down rapidly, and some grain heads are starting to “tip” (*Figure 1*). Some malting barley has already been harvested, soon to be followed by winter wheat in the coming weeks. For a review of best management practices of small grains see this [PDF of Bill’s July Ag Focus article](#).

Late Corn Side-dressing Nitrogen

At this point in the growing season most corn fields have reached V5 to V6 and many are quite tall. These fields will require high clearance equipment (*Figure 2*) with drop hoses to effectively apply nitrogen. Be sure the application rig has

Figure 1: Malting Barley Heads “Tipping”



Source: Bill Verbeten

Figure 2: Side-dressing Nitrogen w/High Clearance Equipment



Source: [Corn and Soybean Digest](#)

some way of stabilizing the drop hoses so they don’t just flop around and end up burning the corn leaves by accidentally applying high nitrogen rates directly to the leaves. A number of corn fields are still in the earlier growth stages and traditional equipment will still work for getting nitrogen side-dressed.

Crop Options in Preventative Planting Ground

Many fields were not planted this spring and the ground is still sitting open. These fields are great candidates for a number of

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late summer planting options. While too late for corn and soybeans other crops like sorghum-sudangrass and buckwheat are great options for July. Summer hay/haylage seedings, cover crops, winter triticale for forage, & oats for fall forage can all be planted in August. Early September will be a good time for winter triticale planting, but by the second half of the that month winter malting barley, winter wheat, & winter rye will be the only options left. Get your seed early and plan ahead for these crops to keep your ground covered the rest of the summer and over the winter.

Getting Rid of Volunteer Corn in Soybeans

Many post emergence weed applications are underway in our region and part of those applications is getting rid of volunteer corn. Glyphosate products obviously are not going to kill Round-up Ready corn in Round-up Ready soybeans. A number of herbicide are available (*Table 1*). Control of volunteer corn will be best if sprayed before it reaches the V4-V5 growth stage.

Potato Leafhoppers, Soybean Aphids, & Soybean Diseases

As we get towards the end of July/the start of August it will be important to scout for soybean aphids and potato leaf hoppers in alfalfa. A lot of second cut haylage has just come off so be sure to sweep the regrowth in the coming weeks.

The seed treatment insecticides on soybeans will start to wear off about 50-60 days after planting and it will be necessary to keep on eye on the early soybean fields towards the end of the month. For the second season we are conducting a soybean disease survey across western NY. We have found some early season issues (*Figure 3*) already so keep your eyes peeled and let us know if something just doesn't look right in your soybean fields.

Table 1: Herbicides for Volunteer Corn in Soybeans

Product	Volunteer Corn Size	Rate/Acre
<i>Select Max</i>	< 12 inches	6 oz
	12-24 inches	9 oz
<i>Clethodim (Arrow/Section)</i>	4-12 inches	4 oz
	12-18 inches	6 oz
<i>Assure II / Targa</i>	10-12 inches	4 oz
	12-18 inches	5 oz
	18-30 inches	8 oz
<i>Fusilade DX</i>	<12 inches	4 oz
	12-18 inches	6 oz

Source: [Dr. Bill Johnson, Extension Weed Scientist, Purdue University](#)

Figure 3: Soybean Seedling Disease



Source: *Mike Stanyard*