



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

CROP ALERT

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Will the Corn Crop Mature in 2014?

Worried about the corn crop reaching maturity this season? Check out Bill Cox's [article](#) discussing why we can still be optimistic about a lot of the corn grain and silage acres. Even so there will be some corn grain and silage fields that will be immature at harvest time, especially if September ends up being as cold as forecasted. So what can we do about this? On the silage end, we'll probably end up a lot like last year dealing with the forage quality issues that [Larry Chase described in detail](#). To minimize this delay harvest as long as you can to try to get it down in the 35-30% DM range, chop long, inoculate with a homolactic bacteria, adjust the grain processors, and fill the silo/bunker/bag quickly. Be sure to get down off of the tractor and take a good look at how your silage is coming out of the chopper. Make sure your custom harvester knows your expectations ahead of time and double check the loads as they come in from the field. If you can, store immature corn silage separately from your better fields and feed it to heifers, dry cows, or beef cattle. For corn grain harvest be ready to fine tune your cylinder/rotor speed, double check your concave clearance, and slow your ground speed down to make sure the grain is getting into the hopper with minimal damage. Immature corn kernels will be more vulnerable so it will be very important to keep a close eye on what's coming through the combine. Wetter grain (25-30% DM) has a higher chance of cracking in the dryer so turn your heat down some to reduce kernel cracking.

Winter Small Grain Variety Trial Results & Planting Reminders

The 2014 Cornell Small Grain Variety Trial results are now out. See the PDFs [online on our website](#). For a review of winter small grain planting practices see [Bill Verbeten's article on this topic](#). A one-page bulletin describing malting barley production is [available here](#).

Gray Leaf Spot in Corn

While farmers in the Southern Tier and the Genesee River valley are no strangers to gray leaf spot, it has been found much farther north in our region this week. A farm near Lyons in Wayne County was found to have some this past week, *Figure 1*. However it's in the lower canopy at low incidence levels, and it wasn't found in many nearby farms. For a current list of fungicides recommended for gray leaf spot control check out this link for [corn](#) diseases authored by Gary Bergstrom of Cornell University. As with all diseases it's important to

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determine how many plants are infected to determine whether or not a fungicide application is justified. Recommendations from [Purdue and Iowa State](#) suggest at least 5% of the leaf area needs to be infected to justify the expense of a fungicide when gray leaf spot is found. This is similar to observations in the Northeast. As always get out and scout your fields prior to spending \$30-40/acre on a fungicide application from the air.

Soybean Aphids Dying, White Mold Persisting

Many of our soybean fields are in the R3-R5 growth stages. Soybean aphids are starting die off because a fungus that is killing them, *Figure 2*. We can thank the cool, humid weather for this. Unfortunately the wet weather has also overwhelmed all of our best management efforts to control white mold in soybeans this season. Our best defense for white mold is still to practice good rotations, using reduced tillage, planting resistant varieties, using wider row spacing, and

Figure 2: Soybean Aphids Attacked by a Fungus



Source: Mike Stanyard

At this point in the growing season making any kind of application to soybeans will probably run down 3-4 bu/acre. If you are going to make a pass over your fields, make sure you can justify running down those beans to prevent an even bigger loss.

spraying once or twice during flowering with a fungicide if there is a history of white mold in the field. However none of our labeled [fungicides](#) have greater than a “good” rating on white mold. The very long flowering period of soybeans combined with the wet weather splashing up spores into at least one flower is causing this outbreak across the region. Some fields have very serious infections with many plants wilted, *Figure 3*. No curative materials are available.

Figure 1: Gray Leaf Spot in Corn



Source: Mike Stanyard

Figure 3: White Mold on Soybeans



Source: Bill Verbeten