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

CROP ALERT

May 22, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Winter Wheat and Barley

The early planted winter wheat and barley has started to head out this week! Please see Gary Bergstrom's comments below regarding controlling Fusarium head blight with fungicides in wheat and barley at flowering. Most plants are at the flag leaf stage and into the boot stage. ***This means that Harmony Extra cannot be applied anymore for weed control!***

There have been confirmations of **wheat rust** on the lower leaves in fields in Niagara and Orleans Counties. They were both in the very early stages. Scout the same way you would for powdery mildew on the lower leaves and look for the orange pustules (See picture). I also found my first **Cereal Leaf Beetle** (CLB) larva this week. (See picture). I am not seeing the number of adults that I have the past couple of seasons. Thresholds for CLB are three or more eggs and larvae per stem or one per flag leaf.

Wheat Rust
Source: Mike Stanyard

Cereal Leaf Beetle (CLB)
Source: Mike Stanyard

Gary Bergstrom, Extension Plant Pathologist, Cornell University

Fusarium head blight commentary, May 21, 2015:

Many winter wheat and malting barley fields in New York State are approaching head emergence. The next 10 days will be critical for farmers making fungicide spray decisions for suppression of Fusarium head blight (FHB) and protection of flag leaves from foliar diseases. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and deoxynivalenol (DON) toxin contamination when applied at wheat flowering (emergence of anthers on heads) or at full head emergence in barley (anthers begin to appear on barley before heads emerge from the boot). A flowering application of triazole fungicide should be based on Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk as well as the risks of powdery mildew, rust, and fungal leaf blotches in the upper canopy based on scouting of individual fields. There is an application window of approximately 6 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. Fungicide products containing strobilurins should not be applied to headed wheat or barley as they may result in increased levels of DON in grain. While the current risk of FHB epidemics is low to moderate over most of the state, that risk could increase next week. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches flowering.

Receive FHB Alerts by Cell Phone:

I will be providing weekly New York commentaries on FHB risk through June. You can subscribe to receive FHB Alerts directly to your Cell Phone (http://scabusa.org/fhb_alert.php). You can select to receive alerts as 1) Text Message Alerts, 2) Email Alerts, or 3) both Text and Email Alerts. To receive alerts for New York, select the Northern Soft Winter Wheat option which provides alerts for MI, NY, WI and VT.

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Corn Replant Decisions

Unfortunately, some areas in the region were hit with severe amounts of rainfall in a short period that hit before corn had emerged. This has resulted in uneven emergence due to washes, ponding, crusting, leading to lower than desired plant stands. I have had questions on how to kill the remaining plants when they are glyphosate and Liberty resistant and be able to plant back into corn.

Tillage would be the quickest answer to be able to replant immediately. However, you will not be able to kill/injure all of the plants. This may not be a huge concern if it is going into silage but a bigger deal for grain production. Obviously, this is not an option for no-tillers.

Gramoxone can be used and replanted immediately but it will only burn off the above ground plant material and not kill the corn plant at growth stages prior to V6. This is because Gramoxone is not systemic and the growing point is still below ground. It will act like frost damage and it will regrow. Other effective options for corn control would be grass herbicides. However, days to replant are too long: Select Max (30), Fusilade DX (60) and Assure II (120). Fortunately, Select Max does have a supplemental label for field corn to deal with this situation, http://www.valent.com/Data/Labels/2008-SMAX-0011-R1%20Select%20Max%20Field%20Corn.pdf. It allows for replant back to corn after 6 days. An article from the University of Illinois on this can be found at http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=1310. They found that 4 oz. of Select Max resulted in 98% control in V1 corn and 94% in V2-V3 stage corn.

Black Cutworm (BCW)
Source: Mike Stanyard

Black Cutworm

I found my first **Black Cutworm** (BCW) yesterday (see picture). It had cut a corn plant that was just shy of V3. It is time to be out there scouting now that they are big enough to start chewing off plants. When you find a cut plant, lightly dig up the soil around the plant to find the culprit. BCW are nocturnal and feed at night and hide during the day. Bt's are labeled for BCW but at high infestation levels, they can still significantly reduce plant populations. Threshold is 5% plants cut or missing to justify spraying with an insecticide.

Last chance to register for WCDI Quality Forage Module starting June 2nd!

For more detailed information about the QUALITY FORAGE module, click here: http://wyoming.cce.cornell.edu/dairy-institute.