



CROP ALERT

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Slugs in Soybeans and Corn

Slug damage has been very evident especially in soybean fields with lots of corn residue. The wet colder temperatures have slowed plant growth which favors the feeding slugs. Slugs are mainly nocturnal and can be found hiding under the crop residue close by. I have been finding all three species of slugs in the same field: Banded, Gray Garden, and Marsh (See picture). The banded slug is the largest of the three species followed by the Marsh (black color). Gray garden slugs overwinter in the egg stage and the juveniles are small right now. Scouting is best done at night when they reveal themselves. Thresholds are mainly based on crop injury and plant population counts. As growing conditions improve, the crop can normally outgrow the feeding slugs. However, if cool, moist and cloudy conditions persist and the crop just sits there, slugs will prevail. Soybeans are usually hit harder than corn because its growing points are all above ground.



Three Species of Slugs
Source: Mike Stanyard

We have a couple of effective control options. A metaldehyde bait such as Deadline MP's has shown to be very effective but is sometimes hard to acquire, not easy to calibrate and spread at the proper rate, and will cost about \$22/acre. Another possible option is Lannate (1.5 pt/A). This is a fairly new label for use on slugs in NY. Growers who have tried it have had mixed results. The key seems to be that it needs to be applied directly to the slugs. This means a nighttime application when the slugs are active.

Millipedes



Millipede
Source: <http://www.doyourownpestcontrol.com/millipede.htm>

I have been seeing a lot of millipedes under the residue while looking for slugs. These segmented arthropods are frequently misidentified as slugs or wireworms. They do not feed on healthy plant material but on dead and decaying organic material. They are normally found under the moist residue and are sometimes blamed for a crime they did not commit.

Later Planted Wheat is Flowering

Later planted wheat continues to pollinate as it has dried out this week. If you are still unsure about what the flowering stage looks like, see the latest Crop Cam video ([Identifying Flowering Stage of Wheat](#)). The Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<http://www.wheatcab.psu.edu/>) is still showing western NY as a low incidence area for Fusarium head scab. Growers will be able to get back into the field today and I know some fields are slated to be sprayed with one of the triazole products Caramba or Prosaro.

Upcoming Event:

Mikelholm Holsteins Pasture Walk - Friday, June 26

John & Sue Mikel started with an open 30 acres and built a small grazing dairy. This will be an opportunity to pick up some pointers. If you are a beginning/start-up farmer this workshop would be worth your time in attending. For more information go to the team's website: <http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/>