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

CROP ALERT

June 11, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Soybean Aphids (SBA) are Back on the Beans!

I found my first SBA in a field in Ontario County on Wednesday, June 10. Soybeans were barely at V2 with the second trifoliate still fuzzy and just expanding. These soybeans were not treated with an insecticide on the seed. From 1 to 4 small green aphids were found on the newest trifoliate. As usual, I relied on the ants to lead me to plants that had aphids. The ants were very active on these plants. They collect the honeydew that the aphids secrete as a waste product. I did not find any of the winged forms that flew from their overwintering site on buckthorn bushes. All of the aphids I found were progeny of the first winged females. All of the SBA on soybeans will be females so populations can expand rapidly from here on if they are not kept in check by natural enemies such as ladybird beetles. See picture from a couple years ago with SBA and ants on young soybeans (6/17/11).

Soybean Aphids
Source: Mike Stanyard

Plant Population Counts and Replant Decisions

Corn and soybean fields that were planted right before all this recent rain are having their share of issues. I have been receiving calls about poor emergence and unfortunately some ponding issues. When assessing plant populations to determine possible replant decisions, there are some crucial numbers to remember depending on what row width you plant. Most counts are based on 1/1000th on an acre. Below is a handy chart for that distance for each row width. Count the number of plants in the appropriate row length and multiply by 1000 to get the number of plants per acre. Do this in a couple of areas to get an average for the field.

Row Width (inches)	Length = 1/1000th of an Acre
7	74 feet, 8 inches
15	34 feet, 10 inches
20	26 feet, 2 inches
30	17 feet, 5 inches

The National Ag Statistic Service crop progress report for the week ending June 7 showed that 93% of the corn and 70% of the soybeans were planted in NY. Go to http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_York/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/NYCW_0608.pdf for the full report. The crop insurance deadline for preventative planting for corn and soybean was June 10, so many of the last fields that haven't been planted may not go in the ground with all the wet weather this week and potential rain for early next week. Hopefully we can still get some of those acres planted. We may want to start thinking ahead about possibly putting in a cover crop or winter grain on those acres that do not get planted in June.

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Fusarium Head Scab Risk is Very High

Fortunately for us, most of our winter wheat and barley pollinated at the right time when it was dry or was protected with a fungicide at flowering to further reduce the risk. The recent wet weather has allowed the fusarium to grow and sporulate on corn residue. This means that there are lots of spores in the air and the infection rate is high. This can be seen on the risk map, (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/) as most of New York is bright red and high for Fusarium head scab. If late planted wheat was flowering this week, it was at high risk for infection and the wet weather has not allowed for any fungicide applications.

Those growing spring malting barley need to be watching their fields carefully. Most fields are at flag leaf emergence and we need to be watching for leaf diseases such as powdery mildew and rust. Some of the early planted fields will be close to head emergence/flowering the end of next week. There will be lots of Fusarium spores and infection will still be high based on the extended forecast. Hopefully, field conditions will allow for planned fungicide applications as they flower.

Potato Leafhoppers (PLH) have Arrived

PLH are back from their overwintering sites down south. They come up on storm fronts and get dropped out usually with the rain. The adults will feed and lay eggs into alfalfa plants. My extension colleagues across the state have been reporting finding low numbers of PLH this week. Second cut regrowth and new seedings are the most vulnerable. PLH feed by piercing and sucking the plant sap from the plant. The resulting hopper burn (yellow leaves) and stunting means that we missed our opportunity for timely management. PLH were not an issue last year but I can remember plenty of years where they have been relentless!

Potato Leafhoppers (PLH)
Source: Marlin E. Rice

PLH management is based of plant height and leafhoppers per sweep. Cornell recommends taking five sets of sweeps with a sweep net (10 sweeps per set) per field and calculating a PLH (adults & nymphs, see picture) per sweep for each set. The economic thresholds for PLH are listed below. Many NY growers are now utilizing PLH resistant alfalfa varieties to protect against quality and quantity losses. Many university researchers are recommending increasing PLH regular thresholds by 3X. However, use regular threshold numbers (chart) for first year PLH resistant stands. After the first cut, use the 3X numbers.

Plant Height	PLH per Sweep
< 3 inches	0.2
3 to 7 inches	0.5
8 to 10 inches	1.0
11 to 14 inches	2.0
15+ inches	> 2.0