

## CROP ALERT

June 26, 2015

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Too Late to Plant Soybeans?

We are getting to the very end of planting season. When should we call it quits on soybeans? Cornell recommends June 20<sup>th</sup> as the last date for soybean planting. If you are going to push the limits this week, here are some suggestions.

- Plant an early group 2 maturity versus a group 1.
- Push up your plant populations 15 to 20 thousand per acre to compensate for fewer nodes on each plant. We follow a similar schedule for winter wheat in the fall.
- Plant on narrow rows to maximize sunlight interception and optimize potential yield.
- Start clean and spray weeds earlier than usual to eliminate as much stress as possible.

### Sampling for Early Soybean Aphid Colonies

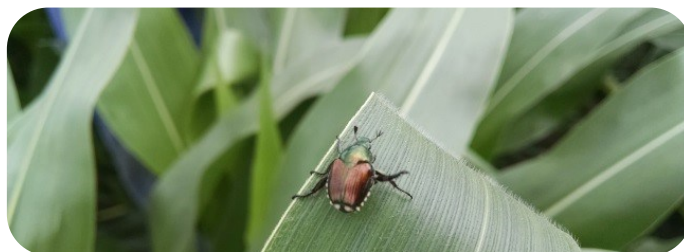
See a new video ([link](#)) to a short video on how to look for early SBA's with the help of ants.

### Other Soybean Defoliators Detected – Grasshoppers and Japanese Beetles

Two more of our soybean leaf feeders have emerged this last week. I am seeing some small grasshoppers that have recently hatched and moved into fields, mainly on the edges. They are prone to be more common around areas that stay wet each year. Females find it easier to lay their eggs in moist soil. Japanese beetles are a little early this year. I saw my first ones in corn and soybean. Like grasshoppers they will chew holes in the leaves. We will have to wait and see what their population levels will be and what percentage leaf feeding is occurring.



*Small Grasshoppers*  
Source: Mike Stanyard



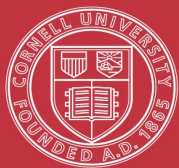
*Japanese Beetle*  
Source: Mike Stanyard

### Vomitoxin in Small Grains

Most of our winter grains are starting to mature. I have been out looking at winter wheat, malting barley and rye this week. Unfortunately, I was able to find some Fusarium Head Scab (FHS) in every field! I was able to find a higher incidence in fields that did not have a fungicide application at flowering. Even the early fields that flowered during the dry period had some infection. Look for individual kernels or small areas of the head that are bleaching prematurely and inspect for signs of VOM. FHS infected kernels will have a pink/orange color (see picture). As fields mature and heads turn brown, it will be hard to tell if you have FHS infected grain and how much. Our early planted wheat is already brown and tipping. We will talk more about harvest as we get closer.



*Fusarium Head Scab (FHS)*  
Source: Mike Stanyard



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### Wheat Harvest Aid

Roundup can be applied pre-harvest in wheat for control of some of the harder to control weeds like Canada thistle, milkweed, quackgrass and dandelion. Roundup should be applied when the percent moisture is 30% or less. This would be the hard dough stage. At this stage, a thumbnail impression will remain on the grain. Go to the Roundup Pre-harvest Staging Guide for more details, <http://roundup.ca/uploads/documents/MON-Preharvest%20Staging%20Guide.pdf>

### Nitrogen in Corn

Much of our corn is struggling right now and in many cases it has not been easy to get back on and sidedress without making bad ruts or worse yet, getting stuck. I have been asked many times, "How much N did I lose?" There is no easy answer. Some areas have had 9 inches of rain since June 1. With all the rain and saturated soils, PSNT sampling will not be very reliable right now. Some consultants are using the Cornell Adapt N program. Most are just using an educated guess. Here are a couple of comments I have heard from growers and consultants regarding this topic.



**Fields that were manured in the fall and spring** – We normally do not have to add any more N to these fields. However, Adapt N computer model is showing that these fields are going to be short and additional N is going to be needed in most circumstances.

**Fields that had all N down at planting** – Anywhere from 60-120 pounds of N was lost. Less for those fields that had inhibitors applied.

Not all fields have been hit with all the rain and some areas have had less than 4 inches since planting. So, in these situations not much N has been lost and heavily manured fields will not need any extra. It has been all about location this spring!

### Look out for Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB)

Gary Bergstrom has received reports from the Midwest that NCLB was being found already. During a Corn TAG Team meeting in York this week, I believe we found some in early planted chest high corn. Conditions are perfect for it. It builds up and spreads locally on corn residue as well as blows in from long distances. See pictures of lesions on leaves. If infections become more prevalent at this early date and spread to upper leaves, fungicide applications will be warranted.

