

## CROP ALERT

June 3, 2016

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

### Winter Wheat Pollinating

The earlier planted winter wheat was in full pollination this week. Many fields were sprayed with either Caramba or Prosaro at the perfect timing. The wet humid weather slowed spraying down yesterday but hopefully sprayers are going again today. While the current risk of FHB epidemics is low (green) over most of the state, that risk could increase. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<http://www.wheatcab.psu.edu/>) and your local weather forecast frequently as your crop approaches heading and flowering. If you are unsure about what wheat flowering looks like, see this short video that I put together last year, <https://vimeo.com/129585425>.



*Full anthesis in Ontario Co. wheat on Tuesday, 5/31.*

### Stripe Rust Warning! (Comments from Gary Bergstrom)



*Stripe rust on winter wheat.*

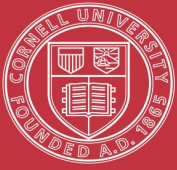
“Caramba or Prosaro applied at flowering will also provide protection of flag leaves against stripe rust (see photo) - an imminent threat at this time. Based on the finding of severe stripe rust (photo courtesy of Mark Avery of Carovail) in some fields in northern Cayuga County this week and high levels of stripe rust in much of the north central, southern and eastern U.S. that could provide spores for aerial transport into New York, I am advising New York wheat growers to consider fungicidal protection of flag leaves against stripe rust infection at this time. The variants of stripe rust being found affect wheat but not barley.”

At the Cornell Small Grains Field Day in Aurora on Thursday a sample of Stripe Rust was brought in from an infected field in Orleans County. Other small pockets are also being reported in NWNy. If you

find Stripe Rust in your field let me know so we can track its progress. The weather forecast for wetter and cooler temperatures for the next week will be more conducive for the spread and development of this disease.

### Watch Regrowth for Alfalfa Weevil Feeding

A lot of dairies had their first cut alfalfa/grass hay chopped and under plastic before Memorial Day. Quality looked excellent though a little shorter than we liked. I had been seeing quite a few fields with Alfalfa Weevil (AW) feeding with some over the threshold of 40% tip feeding. The weevils were in the first to second instars so they were not a real threat and cutting was timely management. Now is the time to start scouting the regrowth. Many of the larvae are still there and getting bigger and eating more. They do 80% of their leaf feeding at the fourth instar. If you feel the alfalfa is standing still and not growing, you better take a closer look. Treatment threshold is 50% tip feeding. Randomly pick 50 stems and count the number with feeding damage. You do not have to actually look for the larvae. If 25 of those 50 stems are positive for damage, you are at 50%. **Now is also the time to start looking for Potato Leaf Hoppers. I have not heard of any reports of them in sweep nets yet but it should be any time now!**



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### Soybean Issues



Unfortunately, the rains have been hit or miss in the region. Some have had just enough but others have had too much or none at all. I have seen soybean emergence severely delayed in both ends of the moisture spectrum. The longer the beans stay in the ground, the more susceptible they are to insect and disease. I have received calls of reduced stands from damping off and seedcorn maggot injury. Seeds were fully treated in all of these situations. When assessing for seedcorn maggots, look for the scarring on the cotyledon. At this date, the maggots may not be visible and may have already pupated. Look for small ¼" brown capsules around the injured seed (See picture). There are no rescue treatments for either of these situations.

Hopefully, the stand is not reduced enough for a replant situation.

### Weed Resprays

Dry weather in many locations has hurt pre-emerge herbicide performance. Many weeds, particularly grasses have started to break through. Hopefully, some of the recent showers will help with some reach back activity. Hold off on respraying too quickly before evaluating. The rains will also promote new weeds to emerge so we want to get as many of those up and out of the ground before a respray.

### Weed Resistance Watch

I have had a couple calls on what to do with marestail in a post situation in soybeans. Ideally, we want to control this weed in a burndown or pre-emerge spray. There are a lot less options once soybeans are up and out of the ground. I'm not sure how many Liberty-Link beans are planted out there this year but that would be the best scenario if marestail was a problem post. Some of the ALS herbicides like FirstRate, Classic or Synchrony are possible options. However, we know that some marestail can also be ALS resistant. I'm not sure how much of our population in NY is but it is a possibility.

### Time to Scout for Black Cutworm in Corn

Nate Herendeen has reported the first Black Cutworm feeding in a corn field in Niagara County. 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. See our video on how to scout for BCW, <https://vimeo.com/130331770>.