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

CROP ALERT

June 15, 2016

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cereal Leaf Beetle in Spring Grains

With our mild winter I really expected to see more cereal leaf beetle (CLB) damage early in the winter grains this year. I was hard pressed to find a single adult in winter wheat prior to pollination. Well, the spring grains have not fared so well. Last week I found a couple of spring malting barley fields in Genesee County that had plenty of larvae and needed to be sprayed. Threshold is three eggs and larvae per plant of one larva per flag leaf. The lack of rainfall in a good part of our region is also stressing spring grains and therefore CLB leaf feeding is more detrimental. CLB larvae are shiny and black and almost look slug-like. They cover themselves in their own excrement and are actually pale orange when clean. They feed on the green epidermis of the leaf and their damage results in a windowpane appearance as the leaves have strips of white (see picture). Oat fields should also be checked as I found plenty of CLB larvae in a field in Ontario County this week.

Different stages of CLB larvae and feeding damage.

Soybean Aphid Scouting

Ants pending soybean aphids

It's about that time where overwintering Soybean aphids (SBA) will be flying from buckthorn to young soybeans. Last year I found the first colonies on June 15. The winged females will lay live young (all females) and will bounce from plant to plant seeding potential new colonies. We are still early enough that those soybeans treated with an insecticide on the seed should control these early aphids. These first SBA infestations are hard to locate so here's a tip. Look for the ants! The ants search out these aphids to get their waste products…..honeydew. If you see ants on a soybean plant, I guarantee the aphids will be there. Here is a video on scouting for SBA by looking for the ants, https://vimeo.com/131208222. Threshold is 250 aphids per plant but could be lower if on small plants particularly if plants are drought stressed.

Armyworms in Corn

I am getting calls about common armyworm (CAW) damage in corn. Larvae are ranging from 1/2 to 1" in length. Armyworms feed from the outside edge of the leaf towards the midrib. Leaves look very ragged (see picture). Worms feed at night but can be found hiding in the corn whorls during the day. Economic threshold is variable depending on what state you look at and many do not have a threshold for small corn. Penn State recommends "Control efforts are usually not economical unless 10 percent or more of the plants are infested". See their armyworm fact sheet for more detail on this pest in corn, http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/armyworm.

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Cutworm in Corn

Cutworms have not been that bad this year but there are still some fields across the region that have been sprayed. As corn gets to the V6 stage, the corn gets too big to cut. Cutworms will burrow into the plant stalk and feed up into the plant. Look for wilting plants and those with dead tops or "dead hearts". In fields where feeding has reduced corn populations, I have been asked about **Corn Replant Decisions**. Example: Corn was planted on June 30. Cutworm damage has taken it down to 20,000 plants. Remaining plants look great and damage was across the whole field. Would we benefit from replanting and getting population back up to 34,000? Research from Iowa State (See Chart) will show that at this date the 20,000 plants still have 81% of maximum yield potential. Starting over and replanting now will get you only 68% of the maximum yield potential. Keep what you have. See the full article, http://agron-www.agron.iastate.edu/Courses/Agron212/Calculations/Replant.htm, for more details.

Corn yield at various planting dates and stands expressed as a percent of the optimum stand and date.

Planting Date					
Established stand	**April 20—May 5**	**May 13-19**	**May 26—June 1**	**June 10-16**	**June 24-28**
Relative yield potential (percent)					
28,000-32,000	100	99	90	68	52
24,000	94	93	85	64	49
20,000	81	80	73	55	42
16,000	74	73	67	50	38
12,000	68	67	61	46	35
*** Assumes reasonably uniform stands**					

Maximum Corn Growth Stage for Postemergence Herbicide Application

We are getting close or have surpassed the labeled corn height on some of our postemergence corn herbicides. Many herbicide labels state a maximum corn height (atrazine is 12") or growth stage in leaf collars when a product can be broadcast. It may also state height restrictions when drop nozzles should be used. For example: Accent Q - Broadcast up to 20" tall or through the V6 stage. Apply with drop nozzles when corn is 20–36" tall or before the V10 stage. Here is a good table from the University of Illinois that includes most of the labeled postemergence herbicides we use in NY. http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/?p=3637.