

CROP ALERT

July 13, 2016

Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Wheat Harvest has begun!

Wheat harvest has begun throughout the region and the yield reports have been very positive so far. I have not heard any reports back on VOM levels but hopefully the dry weather kept the fungus to a minimum. NASS NY estimated that approximately 115,000 acres of wheat will be harvested in 2016. Straw yields will be lower but quality and color look excellent. I have had some questions on the nutrient value of wheat straw. Numbers from Ohio and Michigan State have shown that a ton of wheat straw contains from 11-13 pounds of N, 3-3.3 pounds of P and 20-23 pounds of K. Work has also shown that shorter straw will have higher N levels. For further details see this article from OSU.

<http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/nutrient-value-wheat-straw>

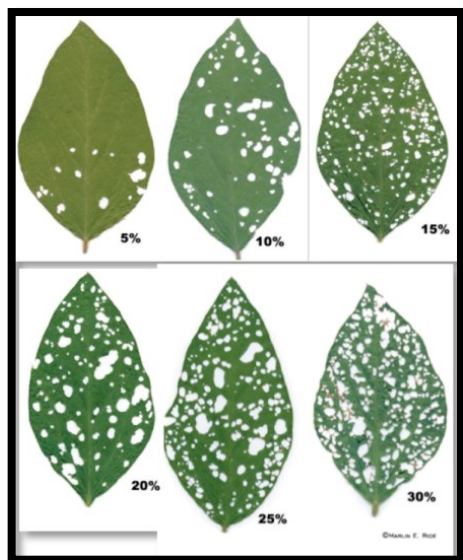


Spider Mite Injury in Soybeans

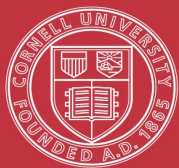
I mentioned the possibility of spider mite populations increasing in the last Crop Alert. I have been seeing low levels of leaf stippling and had my first report of noticeable damage this week. The injury was in spots throughout the field. The silvery spots will eventually turn yellow. Remember, there are no mites per plant thresholds established. Mites reproduce quickly and their injury will be amplified with the drought stress. Once you can see heavy leaf stippling and leaves start to yellow, it's time to go after them. You can't alleviate the drought stress but you can mitigate the mite feeding.

There are relatively few products available for the treatment of two-spotted spider mites and some pyrethroid insecticides may actually "flare" spider mite populations, making them worse. Products containing chlorpyrifos or dimethoate work best for spider mite control.

Grasshoppers, Japanese Beetles and other Soybean Defoliators



There are a couple soybean defoliators out there right now but on dry years I see a lot more grasshoppers. As with spider mites, infestations often begin along field edges. Grasshopper nymphs grow quickly and have an insatiable appetite. Along with grasshoppers, I am seeing plenty of Japanese beetles and some red-headed flea beetles. I usually don't see enough economic damage from just one of these defoliators but if you have all three, spraying can be justified. A general defoliation threshold can be used for all leaf-feeding insects in soybean regardless of species. Prior to blooming soybeans they can tolerate up to 30% defoliation before yield loss, and 20% defoliation from bloom to pod-fill. Defoliation estimation is not easy to judge for the whole plant as much of the damage occurs on the top of the soybean plant. See the picture for help on judging percent leaf defoliation.



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Soybean Aphids????

I have yet to find any soybean aphids (SBA) in NWNy and have not had any grower calls of any in the field. My colleague, Kevin Ganoë in Central NY, reports finding SBA last week and some plants were over the economic threshold of 250 aphids per plant. Aphids feed much like spider mites by sucking out the plant juices and therefore it is very important to keep scouting soybeans during these drought conditions. If you find SBA in your soybeans, give me a call or send me a text.

Western Bean Cutworm Moths have Emerged

I captured my first Western Bean Cutworm moth (WBC) in a pheromone trap in Monroe County last week. The WBC trap network is set up again across the state to monitor adult emergence. Peak emergence has been around August 1 for the past six years we have monitored. Females prefer to lay their eggs in pre-tassel corn. Larvae will briefly feed on the tassel and pollen before moving inside the corn ear. Even though we have not yet detected any economic injury to field corn in NY, WBC moth catches have doubled each season. Corn plants with Bt's such as Herculex and Viptera will have some protection from feeding injury. I will keep you updated as the season progresses.

Potassium Deficiencies Visible in Corn and Soybeans

Unfortunately, drought conditions bring out some unexpected nutrient deficiencies. I have been called to corn and soybean fields that are showing symptoms of potassium deficiency. Potassium deficiencies turn the outer edge of leaf yellow and it eventually will start to turn brown. It starts on the lower older leaves first and then moves up the plant (see picture, www.sdstate.edu). You know you put enough K on and the soil tests show it. However, under really dry soil conditions, the positively charged K cations get trapped by the negatively charged soil and become unavailable for plant roots to take up. If extremely dry conditions continue, there is not much that can be done to fix the problem. Most of the corn in these fields is rolling their leaves by late morning to conserve moisture. I have had a grower spray with a foliar product but the rains keep missing this field. There really is no rescue treatment under these dry weather conditions.



Armyworm in Corn (video)

The number of common armyworm (CAW) calls in corn has ceased as most have eaten their fill and are pupating in the soil. Here is a short video I shot in Seneca County in late June showing how to scout for CAW and what it looks like when they are parasitized by a natural enemy, the Tachinid fly. <https://vimeo.com/173653111>