

CROP ALERT

May 4, 2017

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

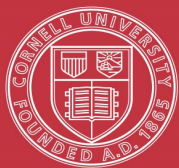
Alfalfa

The alfalfa height measurements for this spring are indicating most areas should be ready for harvest next week! Prediction equations for NDF of mixed alfalfa-grass stands were developed based on sampling and separating mixtures from fields in 2004-2005 by Dr. Jerry Cherney. The equation is used in the excel spread sheet pictured below to determine optimum harvest time for peak forage quality. Currently research is still being done to determine an accurate correlation between grass height and harvest date. Ideally, grasses should be harvested at boot stage before heading at 50-55% NDF for hay or silage.

County	Town	Elevation	Alfalfa Height Inches	Predicted Grass % NDF	Predicted 50/50 Mix % NDF	Predicted Alfalfa % NDF	Predicted Date to Cut Grass	Predicted Date to Cut Mix	Predicted Date to Cut Alfalfa
Genesee	Pavilion	1010	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/3/17	5/12/17	5/23/17
Livingston	Avon	830	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/1/17	5/10/17	5/20/17
Livingston	Avon	910	13.8	48.9	36.1	28.2	5/2/17	5/10/17	5/20/17
Seneca	Waterloo	590	13.4	48.6	35.7	27.9	5/2/17	5/11/17	5/21/17
Seneca	Waterloo	550	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/1/17	5/10/17	5/20/17
Wayne	Manchester	570	15.6	50.5	37.6	29.4	4/30/17	5/8/17	5/18/17
Wayne	Manchester	590	14.2	49.3	36.4	28.4	5/1/17	5/10/17	5/20/17
Ontario	Hopewell	860	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/2/17	5/11/17	5/21/17
Ontario	Hopewell	740	11.8	47.2	34.4	26.8	5/3/17	5/13/17	5/23/17
Ontario	Hopewell	840	14.4	49.4	36.6	28.6	5/1/17	5/10/17	5/19/17

While taking height measurements in the alfalfa-grass stands across the region we found that **alfalfa weevil larvae and beetles** were present and some fields were above threshold (40% tip feeding). Hopefully, these fields can be harvested early but insecticides may have to be used to stop leaf losses. **Leaf spot** has also been identified in alfalfa-grass stands. Please see pictures below. It is recommended to harvest the field earlier if the leaf spot is bad throughout the field.





CROP ALERT

May 4, 2017

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Letham, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Herbicides on Wheat

Most of our wheat is in Feeke's Stage 6 (jointing) meaning that the first node is above ground. There are some early fields at Stage 7 (two nodes above ground). This means that the plant is no longer putting its energy into tillers (vegetative) and is focusing on stem and grain development. Plants are more susceptible to herbicide injury. A good picture review of all the Feeke's growth stages can be found here, <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-422.pdf>.

- Osprey can be applied up until Feeke's Stage 6 (jointing) so for most fields this is not an option anymore for roughstalk bluegrass or cheat control.
- Applications of 2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, MCPA can be risky after Feeke's Stage 6 and is not recommended. Some labels allow up until Feeke's Stage 9 (Boot Stage) but the risk gradually increases from GS 6 to 9.
- Harmony Extra must be applied before the flag leaf is visible and is the best product for chickweed control.

Spring Wheat Diseases



Unfortunately, the cool wet weather conditions are setting up well for two early season wheat diseases, Powdery mildew and Septoria tritici blotch. I was concerned about Powdery mildew this spring because I was finding it in wheat last December. Symptoms of both diseases are most prevalent on lower leaves. Lower canopy looks yellow and unhealthy. I would expect to see signs of Powdery mildew this week. Look for the unmistakable gray fuzzy lesions on the lower leaves and stems (picture). Propiconazole fungicides are very effective against these diseases.

Triticale Forage Harvest

Now is the time to check the growth stage of your winter triticale! Triticale should be harvested at Feeke's 9 for optimal quality. At stage 8 the flag leaf is just emerging from the top of the plant. At Feeke's 9, the collar of the flag leaf is visible. Many fields in the region are pretty close to this stage right now and will be ready to cut next week! Picture: growth stage 8 on the right and 9 on the left. Note leaf collar on the flag leaf.

I put together a short video showing the optimal time for triticale harvest and how to determine Feeke's stage 9, <https://vimeo.com/129684323>



Spring Migrants: Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm

I have been watching the migration of these two insects as they make their way to the Northeast. There have been some very large moth catches in the Midwest the past couple of weeks (ie. over 1600 common armyworm in one trap over a week in Indiana). Unfortunately, the recent storms are bringing these pests right to us! This year we have put out BCW and CAW traps in three locations in the region, Genesee, Ontario and Seneca Counties, and we will be taking weekly counts. We collected 13 CAW in the Genesee trap on April 21 and 18 on May 4. We started to catch a few BCW last week but it increased this week (22 in Ontario, and 13 in Genesee). Eric Nixon of WNY CMA also reported catching 65 BCW this week in his trap in Wyoming County. There are plenty of attractive cover crops out there for the female moths to lay their eggs. You will need to be very diligent with scouting if planting corn into a later terminated cover crop.