

CROP ALERT

May 31, 2017

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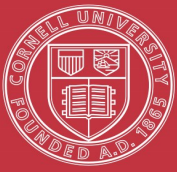
Wheat Diseases

Fusarium Head Scab. Much of the earlier planted wheat is flowering this week. If you were planning on spraying a fungicide for Fusarium head scab, now is the time to do it! If you need to brush up on what wheat looks like when it is flowering, here is a short video on our web page that shows what to look for, <https://vimeo.com/129585425>.

Gary Bergstrom put out a Fusarium Head Scab Alert on May 26 which discusses more about fungicides and timing. "This is a critical week ahead for fungicide spray decisions on winter wheat. Winter wheat in New York varies from boot stage to the initiation of flowering. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and DON contamination when applied at flowering (emergence of anthers on heads). A flowering application of triazole fungicide should be based on Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk as well as the risks of powdery mildew, rusts, and fungal leaf blotches in the upper canopy based on scouting of individual fields. We have observed low levels of powdery mildew and fungal leaf blotches. We confirmed the first stripe rust of the season today on winter wheat in Yates Co.! Foci were fairly large with severe rust in the lower canopy spreading to upper leaves, suggesting a number of rust reproduction cycles in these fields and possible local overwintering of the rust. There is an application window of approximately 7 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB suppression can be expected. Check the Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool (<http://www.wheatcab.psu.edu/>) and your local weather forecast frequently as your winter wheat crop approaches heading and flowering."

Stripe Rust. Last Friday in Yates County was the first stripe rust that I had seen this year. Unfortunately, I have had more calls and pictures sent to me showing it in Genesee and Orleans Counties this week. This is a very serious disease! My guess is that it is spread all across our region. Those who sprayed for powdery mildew earlier might have take the rust out at the same time. See the pictures below and notice how the rust forms the stripes parallel to the leaf midrib. If you are spraying for head scab, Caramba or Prosaro will also take care of stripe rust.





CROP ALERT

May 4, 2017

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Cereal Leaf Beetle

Last week while scouting malting barley I was able to find the first eggs and very small larvae of cereal leaf beetle (see pictures). They were pretty easy to find this week in winter wheat. Oat fields are particularly attractive to these beetles and should also be scouted. Eggs are very small and orange. They are usually laid on the top side of the leaf along the midrib in a chain of 2 to 3. Larvae are black and slimy because they coat themselves in their own fecal matter. They strip off the upper green layer of the leaf leaving white narrow white strips between the veins. Threshold in wheat is one or more larvae per flag leaf. Threshold in oats is three or more eggs and larvae per stem prior to flag leaf emergence. Make threshold determination prior to flowering time fungicide application as you can tank mix in an insecticide.



Armyworm Alert!

We are getting reports of common armyworm (CAW) in grass fields, mixed stands and wheat. larvae are ranging in size from 1/4 to 1/2". CAW can be found in forages using a sweep net near evening. See picture from Mike Hunter, CCE NNY Regional Ag Team. We continue to catch good numbers of armyworm moths in our pheromone traps. This means that there will be more eggs laid in the field and a possible longer range threat than usual. Corn fields will also have to be scouted diligently as this pest can move overnight from food source to food source. Most of the damage we had last year was in corn fields following a cover crop.



Black Cutworm Alert!

It is time to be out there scouting now that cutworms are big enough to start cutting plants. **We have received multiple reports this week of economic cutworm injury in corn.** 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. Some 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>.