

## CROP ALERT

June 28, 2017

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

### Interseeding Cover Crops

Interseeding cover crops is an advantageous way to provide a number of benefits that will increase your soils quality. In proportion to their growth in the fall and following spring, cover crops help to recycle nitrogen in the soil, protect soil from erosion, and also add organic matter. Interseeding cover crops into corn and soybeans can be a successful strategy to improve cover crop performance without decreasing crop yields. Cover crops can be broadcast or drill interseeded in the space between 30" corn or soybean rows after the cash crop has been established and is no longer susceptible to competition from weeds (i.e., roughly stage V5 for corn and V4 for soybeans). Interseeded cover crops therefore have more time to grow before winter. As corn and soybeans begin to senesce in late summer, cover crop plants quickly add biomass before winter which in return reflects the ability of a cover crop to reduce erosion and protect the soil over the winter months.

Annual ryegrass and clover are common interseeded cover crops with recommended rates of 10-20 lbs. /acre.



Photo source: Matt Ryan, Cornell University

The InterSeeder was designed by Bill Curran, Corey Dillon, Chris Houser, and Greg Roth at Penn State and they have developed additional guidelines and herbicide recommendations for cover crop interseeding. For more information about this practice and the InterSeeder see:

1. <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/cover-crops/interseeder-applicator/improving-the-success-of-interseeding-cover-crops-in-corn>
2. <http://www.interseedertech.com/>

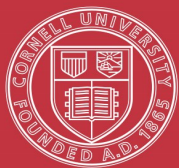
### Maximum Corn Growth Stage for Postemergence Herbicide Application

We are getting close or have surpassed the labeled corn height on some of our post-emergence 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 post-emergence herbicides we use in NY. <http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/?p=3637>.

### Vomitoxin in Small Grains



Most of our winter grains are starting to mature. Now is the time to assess if Fusarium Head Scab (FHS) could be a problem in your fields at harvest. Look for individual kernels or small areas of the head that are bleaching prematurely and inspect for signs of VOM. FHS infected kernels will have a pink/orange color (see picture). As fields mature and heads turn brown, it will be hard to tell if you have FHS infected grain and how much. Our early planted wheat is already turning. We will talk more about harvest as we get closer.



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### Possible Potato Leafhopper Injury to Young Soybeans

Potato Leafhopper (PLH) populations in alfalfa are very high right now. Unfortunately, I have made recommendations to mow fields down because they were all yellow and had not grown in a week. Most fields were above threshold (>2 per sweep) and were still all adults. I only found one nymph. I'm sure many nymphs emerged this week and PLH populations will go through the roof. This will be in addition to new migrants that come in on all these storm fronts blowing up into NY!

It is not uncommon to find PLH feeding in soybeans. Plants usually outgrow any feeding but can be susceptible when they are small and under stress. I have had one call where the young soybeans were turning yellow from PLH feeding and had to be sprayed. Below are some PLH threshold recommendations from Purdue University. See this article for more details:

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/fieldcropsipm/insects/soybean-potato-leafhopper.php>

Growth Stage	PLH/Plant
V1	2
V2	3
V3	5
V4	7

### Buckwheat Opportunities (Thomas Bjorkman, Professor of Vegetable Crop Physiology, Cornell)

A lot of excellent agricultural land remains unplanted in New York. Growers will be thinking of options when it is too late to plant their intended crops. Buckwheat has been a long-standing option as a catch crop after a wet spring. **The target planting date for much of New York is July 4.** Buckwheat will make most sense for growers who have access to a small-grain combine, and who are not collecting prevented-planting insurance on the affected fields. Buckwheat will do best on moderate-fertility fields; it tends to get overly viney with excess fertility.

Because buckwheat is harvested before November 1, prevented-planting insurance payouts are reduced by 65%. The insurance payment is likely to be more attractive than the revenue from buckwheat. A longer-season catch crop makes more sense.

There is currently a single buyer of buckwheat writing contracts in New York, The Birkett Mills. Their contract price is \$24.75 per hundredweight for conventional and \$29.75 per hundredweight for certified organic. The cost of seed is \$28.50 per bag for conventional \$33.50 for organic. One bag plants 1 acre. Yields vary widely, from 5 to 20 hundredweight per acre. For estimation purposes, 8 to 10 hundredweight is a good, somewhat conservative, value.

Here is the website for growers: <http://thebirkettmills.com/company-infoforgrowers.asp>.

The contract is available at: <http://thebirkettmills.com/company-growerscontract.asp>.

Production information for me is available at: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/bjorkman/lab/buck/>

I also put out a couple of fact sheets with the short version [Factsheet 50](#) Planting and [Factsheet 51](#) Harvest.

### Wheat Harvest Aid

Roundup/Touchdown can be applied pre-harvest in wheat for control of some of the harder to control weeds like Canada thistle, milkweed, quackgrass and dandelion. Roundup/Touchdown should be applied when the percent moisture is 30% or less. This would be the hard dough stage. At this stage, a thumbnail impression will remain on the grain. Apply at least 7 days prior to harvest. Go to the Roundup Pre-harvest Staging Guide for more details, <http://roundup.ca/uploads/documents/MON-Preharvest%20Staging%20Guide.pdf>

**Nitrogen management tips for corn will be covered in July's Ag Focus which should be out next week!**