

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

### CROP ALERT

July 27, 2018

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

#### It is Time to Scout for Western Bean Cutworm Egg Masses

We started catching WBC moths in good numbers this week! This is not atypical as we have traditionally seen peak flights occur around August 1<sup>st</sup>. We are only catching males in the traps and it is really only an indication of their presence even though one of our traps in Monroe county caught 80 moths. Now is an important time to look for egg masses. Egg masses will be white (newly oviposited) to purple (ready to hatch). WBC females prefer to lay their eggs on pretassel to tasseling corn on the top couple of leaves. A lot of our corn fields are pollinating so that will help narrow down the fields you should be scouting. **Focus on those fields just beginning to tassel.** Threshold is 5% or greater of the plants with egg masses. Here is a good link from Chris DiFonzo out of Michigan on how to scout and make insecticide application decisions, <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/time-to-scout-and-manage-western-bean-cutworm-in-southern-michigan>. Mike Hunter caught over 300 moths per trap this week in Jefferson County and easily finding egg masses in pre-tassel fields only.



Photo source: Mike Stanyard

#### Waterhemp Rearing Its Head



Photo source: Mike Stanyard

Tall waterhemp is one of our two glyphosate resistant weeds here in the region. It has not been as widespread as horseweed but seems to increase its range each year. I have had pictures from Niagara, Genesee, Livingston and Seneca counties. I also have pictures from Oneida county which is the furthest east I have seen it. A field of dicamba tolerant soybeans in Seneca county last week had been sprayed but skips were clearly evident (see picture) .....solid waterhemp. They will have few options (Group 2 and 14 combination) with post herbicides. Hand rouging is another option so that it doesn't go to seed. If you are battling waterhemp outside a county I mentioned, please let us know so we can get a better handle on its range.

#### Red-headed Flea Beetle

What is this bug??? Many of you may not be familiar with this large flea beetle. It seems to only be a problem during drought conditions and we normally only see it feeding on soybean leaves. However, I do have a report of them feeding in corn silks. This is not a normal pest on corn but they must not have any weeds or soybeans to feed on so corn must be the only suitable food source available. There are no economic thresholds available for this beetle.

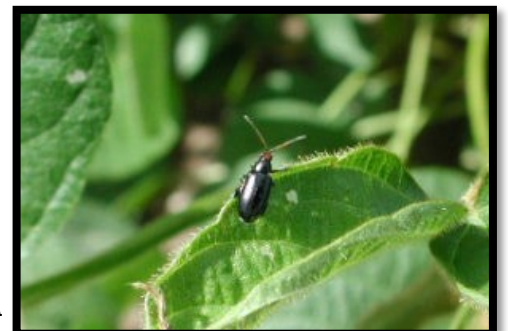


Photo source: Tracey Baute, OMAFRA

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#### **Corn rootworm (CRW)**

I have received two calls on CRW beetles feeding and cutting emerging silks this week. This was a concern of mine because there have been an increase in conventional corn fields in the region and much of it is in continuous corn. The adults prefer the silks and pollen as this is a needed protein source particularly for females that are producing eggs. These beetles will be around until the first frost kills them off so there is plenty of time to lay eggs. The last planted fields should be watched closely as they will serve as a trap crop and last corn pollen source for all emerged beetles.

Cornell treatment threshold for CRW: 10 or more beetles per plant at silking, less than 50% of corn silks are brown, and silks are clipped down to ½ inch or less. If these levels are met, an insecticide for beetle control is warranted. Lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior II) or chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) can be applied for adult control. Chris DiFonzo of Michigan State has a nice fact sheet with pictures of damage to leaves and silks, <http://msuent.com/assets/pdf/04CRWAdults.pdf>. There are some recommendations in the Midwest states to lower the CRW threshold to 5 beetles per plant when corn plants are under drought stress.



*Photo Source: John Obermeyer,  
Purdue University Extension*

#### **Soybean Aphid Update**



*Photo Source: Bryan Lord  
Carolina Eastern Crocker*

Populations have been easy to find scattered throughout most fields across the region. Numbers have been below threshold and I have seen lots of ladybugs doing their job. I am also still seeing winged forms with some very small young ones around them. However, I did get a picture from Genesee county of a field that was way over threshold (250 aphids/plant) that was immediately sprayed. So, there are some heavy aphid pockets out there. So keep scouting! We have a long way to the finish line.