Cornell Cooperative Extension

Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

A partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in these ten counties:
Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming & Yates

CROP ALERT

Friday, June 7, 2019

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Putman, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNY Team

Fusarium Head Blight Commentary, Gary Bergstrom, June 4, 2019:

Wheat at full flower

The Fusarium Risk Assessment Map (http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool.html) continues to indicate a moderate to high risk of Fusarium head blight (FHB) for several areas of New York. Much of the state's winter wheat will initiate flowering this week. The triazole products Caramba and Prosaro are the most effective fungicides for suppression of FHB and deoxynivalenol (DON) mycotoxin contamination when applied at flowering (emergence of yellow 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. There is an application window of approximately 7 days from the beginning of flowering in which reasonable FHB and DON suppression can be expected.

If you are unsure about what wheat flowering looks like, see this short video from the NWNY Team, https://vimeo.com/129585425.

CLB larvae feeding on wheat
Photo by Mike Stanyard

Cereal Leaf Beetles in Small Grains

We saw the first CLB larvae in malting barley fields this week and have received reports of finding them in winter wheat. Threshold is three eggs and larvae per plant or one larva per flag leaf. CLB larvae are shiny and black and almost look slug-like. They cover themselves in their own excrement and are actually pale orange when clean (after a rain). They feed on the green epidermis of the leaf and their damage results in a windowpane appearance as the leaves have strips of white (see picture). Oat fields should definitely be checked before herbicides are sprayed in case you need to tankmix an insecticide.

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. We are still getting high BCW numbers in pheromone traps so we need to be scouting all corn as it emerges!

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Watch Regrowth for Alfalfa Weevil Feeding

We been seeing some heavy Alfalfa Weevil (AW) larvae feeding in first cut that is still out there. Hopefully, the string of weather this weekend allows for much of it to get harvested. Those that are fortunate to have first cut in the bunk, need to scout that regrowth. Many of the larvae are still there and getting bigger and eating more. They do 80% of their leaf feeding at the fourth instar. If you feel the alfalfa is standing still and not growing, you better take a closer look. Treatment threshold is 50% tip feeding. Randomly pick 50 stems and count the number with feeding damage. You do not have to actually look for the larvae. If 25 of those 50 stems are positive for damage, you are at 50%.

Weevil larvae from a sweep net sample
Photo by Mike Stanyard

Potato Leafhoppers have Arrived!

We received the first reports of PLH in alfalfa fields this week from our CCE colleagues in eastern NY. Time to get your sweep nets out! Second cut regrowth and new seedings are the most vulnerable. PLH feed by piercing and sucking the plant sap from the plant. The resulting hopper burn (yellow leaves) and stunting means that we missed our opportunity for timely management. PLH management is based of plant height and leafhoppers per sweep. Cornell recommends taking five sets of sweeps with a sweep net (10 sweeps per set) per field and calculating a PLH (adults & nymphs, see picture) per sweep for each set. The economic thresholds for PLH are listed below.

Plant Height	PLH per
< 3 inches	0.2
3 to 7 inches	0.5
8 to 10 inches	1.0
11 to 14 inches	2.0
15+ inches	> 2.0