

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

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Mike Stanyard & Jodi Putman, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NWNY Team page 1

Cutworm and Armyworm Watch!

We continue to get calls and pictures of black cutworm injury across the region and it's not just in corn. I have reports of economic feeding injury in sunflower and even beets! Most of the larvae have been large (1.25– 1.5 in.) which means they are at the end of their development and should be pupating soon. However, we caught more BCW in our traps this week and the storms on Thursday could have brought in more. Corn is still going in the ground which means that everything will have to be watched closely until V6 this year. Threshold is 5% of plants missing/injured.

Armyworm flights have been relatively quiet until the last two weeks. We have been consistently catching them in all traps. The first report of CAW in wheat came in from Avon this week. They are getting big enough now that you would be able to see the leaf feeding. Look for blackbirds congregating on power lines and fencerows and diving into the wheat. Don't forget about the corn. If you planted into covercrops, better be looking for leaf feeding as the cover crop dies and the corn gets taller. In larger corn, the larvae will be hiding down in the whorl. Economic threshold is variable depending on what state you look at and many do not have a threshold for small corn. Penn State recommends "Control efforts are usually not economical unless 10 percent or more of the plants are infested". See their armyworm fact sheet for more detail on this pest in corn, <http://ento.psu.edu/>



Armyworm feeding on wheat flag leaf



Marestail in unplanted field
Photo by Mike Stanyard

Controlling Large Marestail in Preventative Planting Fields

I drove by a field this week that I thought was a hemp field at first glance. I pulled off to check it out and then realized that it was a field of solid marestail. I saw plenty more fields on my travels that look exactly like this. This is scary to think of how many seeds these fields will produce and how far they will spread. I would assume they are glyphosate and ALS chemistry resistant (Firstate, Classic, Pursuit). These plants emerged last fall and are starting to bolt. Marestail is so much harder to control once it moves from the rosette stage to bolting. **The main objective is to prevent these plants from producing and dispersing seeds!** What are some options?

- ◆ Spray it with glyphosate and 2,4-D and then respray it again later in the summer.
- ◆ Mow it, wait for the marestail to regrow and then spray it.
- ◆ Tillage may or may not be an option depending on how big the marestail is. May be an option later in the season after the large marestail are controlled.

For more information on controlling marestail late in corn, soybean and preventative planting, see this recent article from Michigan State, <https://agfaxweedsolutions.com/2019/06/19/michigan-weed-control-recommendations-for-late-prevented-planting/>

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USDA Allows Earlier Use of Cover Crop Acres

WASHINGTON — Farmers who planted cover crops on prevented plant acres will be permitted to hay, graze or chop those fields earlier than November this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today. **USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1 to help farmers who were prevented from planting because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring.**

"We recognize farmers were greatly impacted by some of the unprecedented flooding and excessive rain this spring, and we made this one-year adjustment to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year," said Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "This change will make good stewardship of the land easier to accomplish while also providing an opportunity to ensure quality forage is available for livestock this fall."

RMA has also determined that silage, haylage and baleage should be treated in the same manner as haying and grazing for this year. Producers can hay, graze or cut cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage on prevented plant acres on or after September 1 and still maintain eligibility for their full 2019 prevented planting indemnity.

"These adjustments have been made for 2019 only," said RMA Administrator Martin Barbre. "RMA will evaluate the prudence of a permanent adjustment moving forward." – USDA RMA



Maximum Corn Growth Stage for Post-emergence Herbicide Application

With the wet year many of our pre-emergence programs did not get on and we are relying on post-emerge programs. We are getting close to or have surpassed the labeled corn height on some of our corn herbicides. Many herbicide labels state a maximum corn height or growth stage in leaf collars when a product can be broadcast. For example, 2,4-D can be broadcast up to 8" corn or use drop nozzles once it is larger than 8". 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=4173>.

Too Late to Plant Soybeans?

We are getting to the very end of planting season. When should we call it quits on soybeans? Cornell recommends June 20th as the last date for soybean planting. If you are going to push the limits this week, here are some suggestions.

- ◆ Plant an early-mid group 2 maturity versus a group 1.
- ◆ Push up your plant populations 15 to 20 thousand per acre to compensate for fewer nodes on each plant. We follow a similar schedule for winter wheat in the fall.
- ◆ Plant on narrow rows (7 or 15) to maximize sunlight interception and optimize potential yield.
- ◆ Start clean and spray weeds earlier than usual to eliminate as much stress as possible.

As of June 16, the NE regional field office of the National Ag Statistic Service (NASS) estimated that only 50% of the soybeans were planted in NY compared to 88% last year at this date.

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