



A partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in these nine counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne and Wyoming.

CROP ALERT April 27, 2020

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

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Black Cutworm and Common Armyworm Moths are Here!

Jodi and I have put out our BCW and CAW pheromone traps in Wyoming, Livingston, Wayne and Seneca counties. I'm sure some of these spring migrants came up here in March with all the nice weather. It was no surprise to see both moths in our traps on April 15th. We will be following the numbers and adding up degree days to give you a heads up on when the best time to be scouting your corn.

	BCW Ontario	BCW Seneca Falls	BCW Castile	BCW Avon
	Wayne	Seneca	Wyoming	Livingston
April 15	0	7	0	0
April 22	1	4	0	0

	CAW Ontario	CAW Seneca Falls	CAW Castile	CAW Avon
	Wayne	Seneca	Wyoming	Livingston
April 15	0	1	3	4
April 22	0	4	2	2



Black Cutworm Moth.



Common Armyworm Moth.

Photos: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

2020 National Wheat Contest

I have tried for a couple of years to get some NY growers to enter this contest with no takers. Last year they changed their rules and now they have a raw yield category that makes it much more attractive. **The final deadline to enter is May 15.** It costs \$125 to enter and you must be a member of the National Association Wheat Growers (NAWG). [Click Here](https://wheatfoundation.org/) to open the application and contest rules or visit: <https://wheatfoundation.org/>.

I had two calls last week saying they were going to sign up. I have seen some pretty good wheat fields out there!



Wheat Growth Stages and Nitrogen Timing

Our wheat is still in the tillering stages but some of the earliest planted fields could just get into Feekes Stage (FS) 6 (jointing) this week. FS 6 means that the plant is no longer concerned about putting on new tillers and is focused on stem elongation and grain development. This stage can be determined by checking the lower part of the main stem. If you can feel a small bump (first node) in the lower stem, then you are at FS 6. An excellent visual guide to winter wheat growth stages and development from the University of Wisconsin can be found here, https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/pubsGuides/UW_WheatGrowthStages.pdf. This is also an important time to apply your nitrogen. Whether it is the second round of your split-applied program or your first shot on a field with plenty of tillers, now is the time to get the nitrogen applied.



Winter Wheat in Wayne County

Photo: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

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Herbicides and Wheat

Plants are also more susceptible to herbicide injury after FS 6. It is crucial to understand what stage your wheat is in to avoid unnecessary yield losses and off label applications.

- **Osprey** can be applied up until FS 6 (jointing) for roughstalk bluegrass or cheat control. If you don't already have some product left over from last year you probably won't find any in the pipeline. Bayer has a new product, **Osprey Xtra**, but we did not get a 24(c) for 2020.
- Applications of **2,4-D, Banvel, Clarity, MCPA** can be risky after Feekes Stage 6 and is not recommended. Some labels allow up until Feekes Stage 9 (Boot Stage) but the risk gradually increases from FS 6 to FS 9.
- **Harmony Extra** must be applied before the flag leaf is visible and is the best product for chickweed control.
- **Huskie** has a Special Local Needs 24(c) label for maretail control in wheat up until flag leaf emergence. Make sure you look at the 24(c) label as the rate is higher than the regular label.
- **Axial XL** is labeled for the control of grasses in wheat and barley. Axial can be applied to wheat and barley from the 2-leaf stage to pre-boot stage. It is labeled for Foxtail (giant, green and yellow), volunteer and wild oats, annual ryegrass, barnyardgrass and canarygrass. For optimal control, it is recommended to apply when grasses have between 1 and 5 leaves on the main stem or prior to emergence of the 3rd tiller. **THIS PRODUCT IS NOT LABELED FOR OATS!!!**



Cover Crop Termination

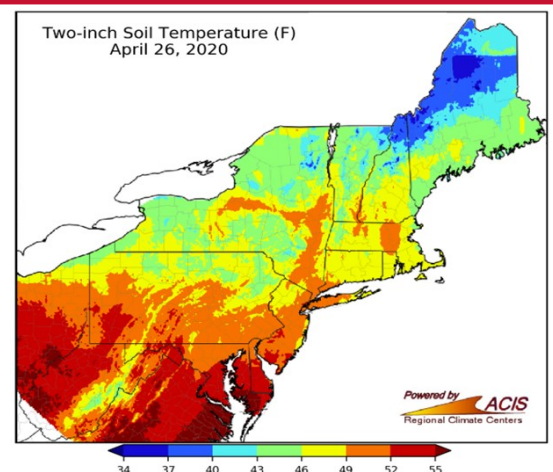
As temperatures warm up this spring, cover crop termination is on the to-do list for some western New York fields. Killing cover crops with herbicides is the most common termination method. The effectiveness of a cover crop depends primarily on three things:

- 1) Cover crop species and growth stage,
- 2) Herbicide and rate used,
- 3) Environment and weather

The cool fluctuating temperatures experienced in spring also present challenges to terminating cover crops. Farmers are limited to a few products for cover crop termination, such as Gramoxone; group 22, Liberty; group 10, or Roundup; group 9. Roundup is the most consistent termination alternative, particularly as the size of the cover crop increases. Grass herbicides (Group 1) do not have effective control of cereal rye consistently. The inclusion of 2,4-D or dicamba with glyphosate will improve consistency of control if cereal rye or other grass species are seeded with a legume. This addition can also be helpful if broadleaf winter annuals are present.

The Importance of Soil Temperature

Though weekly temperatures in April have been cool with rain, we've had days where temperatures were above 60 and soil temperatures were averaging 42-48°F depending on topography and sunlight exposure. For successful germination and stand establishment at planting soil temperatures need to be >50°F. Colder soil temperatures affect plant growth indirectly by reducing water and nutrient uptake, transport and root growth. I encourage farmers to get out and check their soil temperatures before planting early and dealing with the consequences.



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