



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team

## **CROP ALERT**

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*Bill Verbeten and Mike Stanyard, Regional Agronomists, Cornell Cooperative Extension*

### **Wheat (& Weeds) are Greening Up**

Wheat fields are just starting to get that brilliant emerald green color. The well drained fields are getting some nitrogen but many farmers are waiting until the onset of stem elongation. Unfortunately, the weeds are also greening up and some of the winter annuals are just beginning to flower. Time to start thinking about weed control! HARMONY EXTRA (.45 – 9.0 oz./acre) has been a mainstay for broadleaf weed control in wheat and has activity on some tough weeds like chamomile and wild garlic. If roughstalk bluegrass or cheat is an issue, we now have a 24 (c) label in NY for OSPREY. Field trials by Russ Hahn have shown excellent control of these grasses at 4.75 oz./acre. You can also tank-mix HARMONY EXTRA and OSPREY for a broad-spectrum of control. Osprey can also be tank mixed with TILT if powdery mildew becomes an issue. We still recommend keeping your herbicide applications separate from your nitrogen to prevent extra stress and possible yield reduction. Keep in mind that yield responses to early fungicide applications are more likely if powdery mildew is actually present on the lower leaves, *Figure 1*. Keep an eye out for it as it will be cool and wet next week.

*Figure 1: Powdery Mildew on Small Grain*



*Source: Bill Verbeten*

### **Planting, Fertility, & First Forage Harvest**

The first plantings of peas, oats, spring barley, and haylage seedings are finally underway in northwestern NY. Do not plant any winter small grain varieties in the spring. The plants will not head out and will die after a few weeks. Cut small grain seeding rates in half (down to about 1 bu/acre) if seeding hay or haylage underneath to reduce competition. If May gets hot and dry the new seedings will be very stressed competing against higher small grain seeding rates, especially on sandy/gravelly soils. Most spring small grains should get between 40-70 lb./acre of nitrogen at planting. Drop N rates to 20-30 lb./acre if manure was recently applied. Don't forget about getting some phosphorus, potassium on sulfur on these fields as well. Small grain forage harvest will likely be later this spring (mid-late May) as few fields have reached stem elongation. Haylage fields will also have a delayed first harvest (late May). Get manure or nitrogen (100 lb./acre) on pure grass fields soon.

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