



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

CROP ALERT June 18, 2020

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

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Armyworm Alert!!!

Corn. We are getting plenty of calls this week about common armyworm (CAW) damage in corn and wheat. Larvae are ranging from 1/2 to 1" in length. In corn, armyworms feed from the outside edge of the leaf towards the midrib. Leaves look very ragged. Worms feed at night but can be found hiding in the corn whorls during the day. 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/extension/factsheets/armyworm>. The top photo we took yesterday in Ontario County of armyworm damage in corn that was planted into a cover crop.

Wheat. There are also reports of armyworm "herds" traveling across roads in the region. These populations have gone unnoticed in the lower canopy and now are moving up and feeding on the flag leaf. Threshold for treatment is 3-5 larvae per square foot. Many fields have larvae of different sizes so they will be around feeding for another 2 weeks. Larvae will be hiding in the brown thatch material at the base of the plants, in cracks in the ground or under plants flattened in the tire tracks. Look for feeding damage on the flag leaf, leaf pieces and frass between the rows and possible clipped heads.

Always look at the back of the armyworm head for small white eggs. These are the eggs of a Tachinid fly which is the main biocontrol agent and enemy of the armyworm. **If the majority of the larvae have eggs on them, do not spray.** The eggs will hatch and burrow into the larvae and kill them.



Armyworm leaf feeding in corn on 6/17/20



Armyworm and flag leaf feeding damage



Fly eggs on back of armyworm
Photos: M. Stanyard / CCE NWNY Team

Maximum Corn Growth Stage for Post-emergence Herbicide Application

The recent hot and dry weather has not been very conducive for putting on our post-emerge herbicides. Even though the dry weather has slowed corn down in some areas, some of the early planted corn is doing very well in others. 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 (ie. atrazine is 12") or growth stage in leaf collars when a product can be broadcast. 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>

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Potato Leafhoppers (PLH) Have Arrived

PLH are back from their overwintering sites down south. They come up on storm fronts and get dropped out usually with the rain. The adults will feed and lay eggs into alfalfa plants. Second cut regrowth and new seedlings 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. **Some fields were over threshold this week and have been sprayed!**

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. Many NY growers are now utilizing PLH resistant alfalfa varieties to protect against quality and quantity losses. Many university researchers are recommending increasing PLH regular thresholds by 3X. However, use regular threshold numbers (chart) for first year PLH resistant stands. After the first cut, use the 3X numbers.



Plant Height	PLH /Sweep
< 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

Interseeding Cover Crops

Interseeding cover crops is an advantageous way to provide a number of benefits that will increase your soil quality. In proportion to their growth in the fall and following spring, cover crops help to recycle nitrogen in the soil, protect soil from erosion, and also add organic matter. Interseeding cover crops into corn and soybeans can be a successful strategy to improve cover crop performance without decreasing crop yields. Cover crops can be broadcast or drill interseeded in the space between 30" corn or soybean rows after the cash crop has been established and is no longer susceptible to competition from weeds (i.e., roughly stage V5 for corn and V4 for soybeans). Interseeded cover crops therefore have more time to grow before winter. As corn and soybeans begin to senesce in late summer, cover crop plants quickly add biomass before winter which in return reflects the ability of a cover crop to reduce erosion and protect the soil over the winter months. Annual ryegrass and clover are common interseeded cover crops with recommended rates of 10-20 lbs. / acre.

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