Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

April 27, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: April 27, 2009. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Full report at: http://www.nass.usda/gov/wi/

Soil Moisture		
	East Central Wisconsin	State Average
Very Short	1%	4%
Short	6%	17%
Adequate	43%	78%
Surplus	50%	4%

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Precipitation			
City	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to Apr. 25	Normal	Last Week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	45	-1	90	81	2.06	4.65	0.50	6.86
Madison	49	1	148	129	3.14	9.48	0.29	9.33

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
			State Average		
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Oats Planted	35	52	58	14	48
Spring Tillage Complete	15	40	35	8	30

Research Findings: Some early research results by, Shawn Conley UW Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, found in “Predicting When Soybeans Will Emerge” soybean emergence reached 50% at around 130 GDU’s and 90% at 155 GDU’s. Using the Green Bay temperature data, another 65 GDU’s are needed for 90% emergence. On average, 155 GDU’s is reached in Green Bay around May 5-10. Let’s now hope it gets dry enough by then.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 1, April 24 2009

Full report at: http://pestbulletin.wi.gov/

Looking Ahead

ALFALFA WEEVIL - Although adults could not be found this week, the spring emergence of alfalfa weevils is expected to begin over the weekend in advanced southern areas of Wisconsin, with the first larvae appearing in sweep nets by May 7.

BLACK CUTWORM - The installation of traps was completed by late March at select locations in the southwest and east-central counties. Thirty-four moths in 26 pheromone traps have been reported since the earliest migrants were registered in Rock County on March 25. The first sustained capture of 9 moths in 2 nights may occur in the next week if prevailing southerly air currents direct more migrants into the state.

EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR - Tents constructed by the larvae of this pest should soon be conspicuous on wild cherry, apple, flowering crabapple and other hosts in the southern counties. The first emergence of larvae from overwintered egg cases was noted on April 22 in Sauk County. Control is best achieved while larvae and tents are still small.

WINTER CUTWORM - Reports suggest the incidence of this exotic pest is much higher than in previous years. Signs of infestation should become apparent in alfalfa and small grains within in the next 1-2 weeks. It is speculated that the east-central, northeast and north-central portions of the state are at greatest risk for larval outbreaks.

PEA APHID - Egg hatch was noted on April 22 in Rock County where nymphs were swept at the rate of 2 per 100 sweeps. Nymphs were also detected in Columbia, Dane and Sauk County alfalfa this week in insignificant numbers.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Forages & Grains

ALFALFA WINTER INJURY - Alfalfa and winter wheat fields in southern Wisconsin have begun to show evidence of winter injury, according to recent surveys and observations made by UW-Madison agronomists. Inadequate snow cover and exposure to extremely cold temperatures in December and January caused freezing damage to cells in the roots, killing large portions of scattered fields. Seven counties checked in the past week--Dane, Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Monroe, Rock and Sauk--were found to have suffered some degree of winterkill. It is still too early to assess the extent of injury in the central and northern areas.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Alerts

WINTER CUTWORM - Alfalfa and small grains growers should be aware of the possibility of problems in localized fields throughout the state this spring. Reports have been received from various parts of Wisconsin where large numbers of these worms were observed invading homes in December and advancing over the snow in February, according to UW-Extension Entomologist Phil Pellitteri. Of greatest concern is the threat to alfalfa and small grains, especially winter wheat, but infestations may affect gardens, lawns, grasses, clover and many other crops. Specific counties in which there are indicators for larval feeding are: Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Dane, Door, Jefferson, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood.

Winter cutworm, the larval stage of the greater yellow underwing moth, Noctua pronuba, derives its common name from its tolerance to cold temperatures. Larvae of this exotic European species are active on warm winter days and grow to a length of 2½-3 inches. The adult form is a large moth with a 3-inch wingspan and orange-yellow hindwings.

Although winter cutworm has not been present in Wisconsin in numbers sufficient to cause alarm, serious potential for larval feeding exists in the east-central, central, northeast and north-central parts of the state this April and early

May. Scouting fields in the next week is strongly advised. The University of Wisconsin-Extension recommends treatment for infestations of three or more larvae per square foot.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT ROT - A survey of root rot diseases was conducted in 50 Wisconsin soybean fields last spring in response to flooding and unusually wet weather conditions. From June 23-July 7, 2008, randomly selected fields were examined for plants exhibiting symptoms such as wilting, chlorosis or stem lesions. Samples were collected and later tested at the Plant Industry Laboratory for *Phytophthora sojae* and other early-season fungal pathogens.

Infection rates among soybean roots with *P. sojae* were higher than preliminary morphological testing data indicated in 2008. Diagnoses based on culture and morphology initially yielded 4 positive sites, but follow-up molecular testing of DNA from soybean root tissues revealed 7 additional positive samples, bringing the total percentage of samples infected with *P. sojae* from 8% to 20%. These results imply that *P. sojae* infected declining plants in roughly 1/5 of the 50 soybean fields surveyed last spring. Thus, the incidence of this root rot disease was higher in 2008 than previously thought. Further description and management recommendations may be obtained at the website: http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/soyhealth/prr.htm, available through the UW-Extension.

SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE - The UW-Madison Agronomy Department in cooperation with the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board is again offering free soybean cyst nematode soil testing. Soil sample test kits are available now and can be requested from Colleen Smith at clsmith8@wisc.edu or at (608) 262-7702.

--Anette Phibbs, DATCP Plant Industry Laboratory

Weeds

COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS - Surveys this week found very few ¼ inch tall seedlings had emerged from the soil in Dane and Green Counties. Predictably, development of this species is expected to accelerate with warmer temperatures projected for the week ahead.

DANDELION - Rosettes measured 6-8 inches in diameter at locations in south-central and southwest Wisconsin as of April 20, and the yellow composite flowers were noted on south-facing hillsides in Rock County. Dandelions, as homeowners and lawn care experts know well, are one of the earliest perennial weeds to emerge each spring. Removal of below-ground portions of this plant is critical to preventing regrowth. Frequent mowing can reduce dispersal by limiting seed development.

WILD PARSNIP - Roadside plants in Iowa County were 2 inches tall by April 22. This invasive, yellow-flowered weed has become increasingly abundant in Wisconsin, particularly at sites dominated by perennial grasses that are mowed 1-2 times annually. Accurate identification and early detection of infested areas can minimize inadvertent human exposure to the skin irritants in its leaves.

GIANT RAGWEED - Emergence was noted in the south-central areas this week. The seedlings of this species are very similar to common ragweed early on, but may be distinguished by the larger cotyledons (3-4x) with green undersides, in contrast to the smaller cotyledons with purplish undersides characteristic of common ragweed. Giant ragweed has an initial competitive advantage over many other weeds and crops due to its early emergence and rapid growth rate. Research that examined giant ragweed competition in corn demonstrated that season-long competition from just 2 plants per 110 square feet can reduce corn yield by 13%.

COMMON CHICKWEED - Surveyed fields in the southern counties contained extensive mats of flowering common chickweed. Because this winter annual reproduces by seed, management programs should be initiated prior to seed set to achieve effective control.

--Clarissa Hammond, DATCP Weed Scientist