

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

August 24, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: August 24 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 | 7 | 3 |
| Short | 47 | 18 |
| Adequate | 45 | 71 |
| Surplus | 1 | 8 |

| Wisconsin Weekly Weather | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| City | Temperature | | GDD (50 base) | | Last Week | Since June 1 | Precipitation June 1 dep. from normal | Year to date |
| | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal | March 1 to August 22 | Normal | | | | |
| Green Bay | 66 | -1 | 1726 | 1813 | 0.71 | 7.30 | -2.18 | 17.74 |
| Madison | 68 | -1 | 1973 | 2121 | 0.70 | 8.36 | -2.64 | 25.11 |

| Wisconsin Crop Progress | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Crop and percent of acreage | Central | | State Average | | |
| | Central | East Central | This Year | Last Year | 5-Year |
| Corn in dough | 26 | 24 | 39 | 43 | 56 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 60 | 81 | 77 | 87 | 89 |
| Third cut hay | 55 | 67 | 55 | 61 | 58 |

Crop Conditions: Corn: Very Poor=2%, Poor=9%, Fair=25%, Good=49%, Excellent=15%

Soybeans: Very Poor=1%, Poor=7%, Fair=26%, Good=49%, Excellent=17%

Observations of the week: *2009 Winter Wheat Trail Results Posted**:** <http://soybean.uwex.edu/>

Last week, Shawn Conley and Paul Esker wrote about downy mildew in soybeans. While not a significant yield robber, fungi are easily found on many soybeans plants now. Soybean aphids increased substantially in the past week at the sentinel field. Eleven out of the 20 plants counted had populations over 250 aphids per plant with the crop growth stage very near R6. Populations ranged between 140 and 400 aphids per plant. A crop growth stage of R6 in soybeans means there is a pod containing a green seed that fills the pod cavity at one of the four upper most nodes on the main stem. Once a soybeans crop reaches R6, treatment is not worthwhile. Many winged adult aphids were found, typically 2 to 6 per plant. This may be an indication they are preparing to migrate to buckthorn for the winter portion of their life cycle. There has been some quiet excitement about the release of parasitic

wasp against soybean aphid however the natural predators I observed today were not lady beetles and aphid mummies, rather assassin bugs and lacewing larvae.

While many producers are planting triple stack hybrids without scouting for corn rootworm adults, I found over one CRW adult per plant today in a corn field. Most were northern CRW and a few were western. What was troubling was the number of CRW adults that were hanging out on soybeans plants in the adjacent field. The soybeans finished flowering so they were not feeding on pollen. To my knowledge the western corn rootworm variant that lays eggs in soybeans fields has not been documented this far north; however if you are seeing something similar, please let me know.

At a field day last week, the Larson Coop staff mentioned that wheat being held in bins at too high moisture is having sprouting problems. This is a problem that can warrant outright rejection. If you were having moisture problems with your wheat, it is best to inspect for sprouts before attempting to deliver.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 17, August 21 2009

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

Forages & Grains

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - Surveys of alfalfa show that counts are below economic levels in most fields, although failure to harvest the third crop on time has resulted in high populations and noticeable yellowing of foliage in a few scattered fields. Numbers in Dunn, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce and St. Croix counties vary from 0.9-5.5 per sweep, with an average of 1.9 per sweep. Nymphs are still collecting on the rims of sweep nets, but comprise a smaller percentage of the population than previously.

PEA APHID - Representative counts in central and western Wisconsin remain at 2-3 per sweep. Two fields surveyed in Dunn County contained 5-6 aphids per sweep, but these were exceptional. Pea aphids have been scarce in sweep net collections since the final week of June, when populations ranged as high as 60-65 per sweep.

--Krista Hamilton, *DATCP Entomologist*

Corn

CORN ROOTWORM - The survey of corn rootworm adults is now in progress, and thus far it appears populations have decreased from 2008 in several agricultural reporting districts, with a few localized exceptions. Scattered fields in Buffalo, Dodge, Grant, Sauk and Sheboygan counties currently have very high counts of 3-9 beetles per plant, and individually some plants have been found with more than 15 beetles. However, the average number of beetles per plant declined from 1.1 in 2008 to 0.7 in 2009 in the southwest district, from 1.6 to 0.3 in the southeast district, from 1.0 to 0.3 in the east-central district, and from 0.6 to 0.5 in the west-central district. Economic populations were found in just 28 of the 139 (20%) fields surveyed as of August 21. An average of 0.75 or more beetle per plant indicates the potential for economic root damage to continuous corn next season.

CORN LEAF APHID - High numbers persist in many fields. Colonies of 25-100 aphids per plant are concentrated on the flag leaf, in the silks, and in tips of developing corn ears in the east-

central, central and west-central districts. A few fields in La Crosse, Pierce and St. Croix counties have 50-100 aphids on 50% of the plants, the level at which treatment is justified. In most instances pollination is now complete, so chemical treatment would not benefit the corn. **EUROPEAN CORN BORER** - Surveys conducted in Dane, Dunn, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce and St. Croix counties revealed extremely light infestations, with 85% of fields examined having no detectable population. Development of this insect has been delayed this season by as much as 2-3 weeks, and very few corn plants are showing evidence of feeding by early instar second generation larvae. The largest infestation observed during the period of August 14-21 was in the Connorsville area of Dunn County, where 44% of the plants showed boring by 5th instar larvae of the first generation. The treatment window for the second generation has opened in all areas where 1,550 degree days (base 50°F) have accumulated and will remain open until 2,100 degree days are surpassed.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

Plant Industry Laboratory specialists are currently conducting a late-season survey of soybean diseases. The following results are based on examination of 9 fields in Rock County and 3 fields in Walworth County, all at the R5-R6 stages of growth.

DOWNY MILDEW - Surveys found this common fungal disease in 100% of fields sampled in Rock County, and 33% of fields sampled in Walworth County. Average incidence and severity ratings were 83% and 5%, respectively. Downy mildew, caused by the fungus *Peronospora manshurica*, is characterized by irregular greenish-yellow spots that appear on the upper leaf surfaces and small amounts of yellow fuzz on the lower surfaces, directly opposite the spots. Yield loss due to leaf infection is unlikely at the severity levels observed, but systemic infection can occur if contaminated seed is planted next season.

WHITE MOLD - Three positive cases of white mold, caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, have been diagnosed from soybean fields in Rock County. Incidence levels were low at all sites, but severity will eventually reach 100%. The initial diagnostic indicator is the presence of fuzzy white mycelium at nodes on the lower stem where blossoms were first colonized. Diseased plants develop a bleached appearance by harvest. Reductions in yield may occur at severity levels of 10% when the disease is present throughout the field.

--Kara Geertsma-Breunig, DATCP Plant Industry Laboratory