

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

July 13, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: July 13 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	27	16
Short	46	39
Adequate	25	44
Surplus	2	1

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to July 11	Normal		Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	66	-3	1010	1027	0.55	3.08	13.51	-0.71
Madison	67	-4	1204	1249	1.48	5.65	22.40	5.56

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	Central		State Average		
	Central	East Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Average Corn Height	35	35	49	43	42
Soybeans Blooming	17	11	9	12	27
Second Cutting Height	39	45	50	28	41

Observations of the week: As I travelled to visit family this weekend, the significant affects of low rainfall were apparent. Every field in the central sands with a functioning irrigation pivot appeared to have it on. The few plants in corners of fields, out of reach from irrigation, were tightly rolled up and even wilting. Drought stress was also apparent on heavier soils.

It might be a little early to start thinking about corn silage but I have purchased a light weight wood chipper to take to farms for corn silage dry downs. My hope is to line up a few farms in late August and early September where the neighbors can bring corn stalks for me to check moisture. If you think you want to be one of those farms, please let me know. 232-1971

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

Forages & Grains

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - Economic populations of 2.0 or more adults and nymphs per sweep have been detected in localized areas since the last report. Alfalfa surveyed in the southeast, southwest and west-central districts contained an average of 1.0 per sweep, although a few scattered fields in La Crosse, Monroe and Washington counties yielded 2.2-2.8 per sweep. In most instances, the problem could be corrected by harvesting second crop alfalfa immediately. Treatment decisions should be made on a field-by-field basis, only after alfalfa has been systematically sampled to determine if the economic threshold has been exceeded.

PEA APHID - Numbers in alfalfa have declined considerably since late June. Surveys conducted in Crawford, Iowa, Grant, La Crosse, Monroe, Racine, Richland and Walworth counties showed 0-4 per sweep, which represents a sharp decrease from the average of 13 per sweep reported as of June 26. Two exceptional fields in Washington County had 7-9 aphids per sweep. Parasitic wasps and predators such as damsel bugs, lacewing larvae and lady beetles were common in sweep net collections, but did not appear numerous enough to have reduced counts to the low levels observed in the past week.

PLANT BUGS - Populations varied from 0-3.4 per sweep in 33 alfalfa fields surveyed this week in the southern and west-central areas, with an average of 0.7 per sweep. High counts of 2.5-3.4 per sweep were found in Adams, La Crosse and Monroe counties.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - Larval infestation rates remain about the same as reported in previous weeks, with the typical population affecting fewer than 8% of the plants and occasional fields showing 11-19% whorl feeding. No larvae were detected in 32 of 43 fields (74%) checked during the period of June 6-9. Treatment is justifiable between 800 and 1,100 degree days (base 50°F) when 50% of the plants show leaf feeding. The predominant stages present this week were intermediate 2nd and 3rd instar larvae.

CORN ROOTWORM - Adults were noted for the first time this season on July 7 in La Crosse and Monroe counties. These insects will become gradually more numerous in the next 3-4 weeks, with the peak of emergence expected by early to mid-August in the southern and western counties. The extent of the larval infestation is unknown and will not be evident until high winds and rains lodge corn plants weakened by root feeding.

STALK BORER - Damage to corn has been infrequent, usually with only a few plants in the peripheral rows showing light amounts of feeding injury. Spot treatment is no longer advised now that the degree day accumulation has surpassed 1,400-1,700 (base 41°F) in most areas of the state and the majority of larvae are nearly full grown. Stalk borer feeding is unlikely to kill corn plants beyond the V7 stage.

CORN LEAF APHID - Colonies consisting of 5-25 aphids per plant are affecting approximately 3-10% of the corn plants in Adams, La Crosse and Monroe counties. Close monitoring is recommended during the late whorl and pollen shed stages to assess populations. Colonies of 50 or more aphids per plant on 50% of the plants may interfere with pollination and should be treated promptly.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

SOYBEAN APHID - Surveys indicate that levels of this insect remain below the economic threshold of 250 aphids per plant on 80% of the plants. Many fields still have no detectable population. Examination of V4-R2 soybeans from July 6-9 found aphids in 31 of 42 (74%) fields sampled in Crawford, Grant, Iowa, La Crosse, Monroe, Racine, Richland, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties. In the 31 infested fields, average densities per 20 plants

ranged from 0.5-174 aphids per infested plant on 5-100% of the plants, with an average of 8 aphids per infested plant. The highest single plant count noted this week was 700 aphids in Crawford County. No economic aphid populations were detected in any Wisconsin soybean field surveyed as of July 9.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

BLACK LIGHT TRAPS - European corn borer counts in black light traps have decreased to very low levels, possibly signaling the end of the first flight. Numbers have been extremely low at all 10 trap sites since the spring flight of moths began in late May. The moderate-heavy flights of spotted cutworm moths reported from Manitowoc and Marshfield in the last two weeks appear to have subsided. By contrast, the first western bean cutworm moths are appearing in traps near Arlington, Mazomanie and Sparta. Insignificant numbers of celery loopers, forage loopers and cutworms were registered at several locations.

The Soy Report, Shawn Conley UW Soybean and Small Grain Specialist and Paul Esker, UW Plant Pathologist. <http://thesoyreport.blogspot.com/>

No new entries this week.