

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

July 27, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: July 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	56	28
Short	25	34
Adequate	19	27
Surplus	0	1

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to July 25	Normal		Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	66	-4	1222	1313	1.16	4.26	-1.91	14.69
Madison	65	-7	1419	1562	0.93	6.99	-0.21	23.74

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Silked	23	8	21	28	47
Soybeans Blooming	34	50	42	56	65
Second Cutting Hay	78	74	81	69	74

Observations of the week: Much welcome rain encouraged some tassels and silks to finally start popping out. Good to see pollination isn't happening during droughty conditions. Soybean aphids remain the same at the Winnebago County Sentinel Plot: present but few. Upon reviewing the national soybean aphid, soybean aphid populations are relatively light across the Midwest but appear to be heavier in up-state New York and Vermont. Potato leafhopper population increased a bit. In a field that is now 4th crop re-growth, sweeps had no PLH's to 0.8 PLH's per sweep. Alfalfa re-growth should continue to be checked.

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

Forages & Grains

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - Surveys conducted in the south-west, west-central and central districts yielded counts ranging from 0.1-5.2 per sweep, with an average of 1.6 per sweep. Economic populations of 2.0 or more leafhoppers per sweep were detected in 9 of 30 fields (30%) checked. The highest numbers were collected this week in Adams, Juneau and Monroe counties where distinct yellowing of alfalfa, due only in part to this pest, was evident in many of the taller fields. Small nymphs were numerous, suggesting that the prevailing dry conditions have been favorable for reproduction.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG - Alfalfa fields surveyed in Adams, Eau Claire, Jackson, Monroe and Sauk counties contained low populations of 0.2-2.2 adults and nymphs per sweep. Only one field in Juneau County had 4.2 per sweep, which is still below the economic threshold for this insect. Mixed counts of all plant bug species should not exceed 5.0 per sweep at any point during the growing season.

PEA APHID - Field observations show populations have not increased appreciably since the last report. Most fields in the central and southern areas still have less than 3.0 aphids per sweep, although a few exceptional fields in Monroe County contain 4.2-6.0 per sweep.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - Pupation has begun in advanced areas of the state. Most larvae are presently in the 3rd instar, but variation is great enough that there may be a prolonged flight of summer moths in August. In Adams, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe and Rock counties, infestation rates range from 1-28%. The vast majority of surveyed fields in the south-central, south-east, west-central and central districts (70%) have no detectable larval population.

TRUE ARMYWORM - Large numbers of armyworms registered in southern Wisconsin black light traps last month suggest that the potential for localized outbreaks of second generation larvae is high. Serious problems may develop in the next 1-3 weeks as the larval progeny mature and consume substantially more corn foliage. Although armyworm activity is generally suppressed during periods of dry weather, problems can be aggravated under such conditions as the larvae move from dried grassy weeds onto corn plants. Spot treatment is justified at infestation levels of 2 or more small larvae per plant (less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch) on 25% of plants or 1 larva per plant on 75% of plants. In instances where armyworms migrate to corn fields from adjacent areas, only the border rows should be treated.

CORN ROOTWORM - Populations of adults continue to increase and emergence is far from complete. Surveys of corn in Adams, Iowa, Juneau, Kenosha, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Walworth and Waukesha counties revealed counts of 1-8 beetles per 10 plants in 16 of 34 fields (47%) examined during the period of July 17-23. Peak emergence remains 2-3 weeks away.

WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM - Egg deposition and larval hatch are occurring in the central and southern areas of the state, as far north as Mondovi in Buffalo County. Corn fields should be inspected closely at this time to appraise the percentage of plants infested with egg masses and small larvae. The eggs are deposited principally on the upper surface of the flag leaf, while the larvae can be found in the developing tassel. Treatment is justified when 8% of plants are infested and should coincide with 90-95% tassel emergence.

CORN LEAF APHID - Light colonies consisting of 5-35 aphids per plant have been detected on corn from Adams to Eau Claire County. Infestation rates vary from 2.5-20% in the central and west-central areas, with an average rate of 7.5%. Colonies of 50 or more aphids per plant on 50% of plants may interfere with pollination.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

SOYBEAN APHID - Surveys of R1-R2 soybeans in the southern and central counties continued to reveal mostly low populations, although a larger proportion of Wisconsin fields are now 100% infested with aphids. The average number per plant (based on 20 plants sampled per field) ranged from 1-8 on 5-90% of the plants in the southwest district, 0-41 on 0-90% of the plants in the southeast district, 7-61 on 75-100% of the plants in the west-central district, 5-81 on 75-100% of the plants in the central district, and 4-17 on 65-100% of the plants in the east-central district. Recent observations indicate the problem is not uniform throughout the state or within individual fields. Thus, it is imperative to examine soybeans at regular intervals, sampling plants from several distinct locations per field. The heaviest concentrations of aphids noted in the past week were observed on plants in the peripheral rows of fields.

SOYBEAN THRIPS - Moderate numbers of thrips were detected on July 10 in an Eau Claire County soybean field. According to the survey report, plants throughout the field were infested with several individuals per leaf and injury was evident. No threshold has been established for soybean thrips in Wisconsin, but adjacent states recommend treatment thresholds as variable as 8-25 per leaf. This minute insect rarely causes damage to soybeans, except in high population situations on young plants or if plant growth is delayed by cool weather.

JAPANESE BEETLE - Light feeding is apparent in the edge rows and scattered throughout many Wisconsin soybean fields. In Adams, Iowa, Juneau and Monroe counties, no more than 10% of plants in the marginal rows and 5% of plants in the interior show leaf skeletonization by adults. Similar levels of infestation were found as far north as Eau Claire County.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist