

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

June 24, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** June 21 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	0	3
Short	13	6
Adequate	79	77
Surplus	8	14

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to June 20	Normal		Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	69	4	616	616	0.44	2.54	0.37	1.18
Madison	70	3	800	840	2.63	4.46	1.89	7.26

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Oats Headed	20	19	28	28	47
Soybeans Emerged	75	78	90	91	91
First Cutting Hay	84	82	87	64	75
Average Corn Height	10	7	13	14	18

**Observations of the week:** Based on reading the findings from the Wisconsin Crop Bulletin regarding soybean aphid, I went scouting for them. This seems very early to me but I did indeed find soybean aphids in the field I checked near Oshkosh. Over ½ of the plants had soybean aphids; most plants with aphids had 5 or less. One plant had 19. This is a significant concern and we will need to be diligent about scouting for soybean aphid for the rest of summer. A second crop alfalfa field has been harvested. I did not catch any potato leafhoppers in the stubble.

I spend the beginning of this week in the heart of Vermont's dairy county, even stopping at the Holstein Association Headquarters in Brattleboro, Vt. Allow me to share some impressions. Brattleboro, VT is a tourist haven with many quaint New England shops where people from Boston come up for the weekend. I stopped in the Holstein Association building to see if there were any dairy exhibits. The receptionist was very polite and offered to arrange a tour but there really wasn't anything there besides files upon files of records. Considering the tourism coming to town and the

great location, I was a little surprised some displays promoting the dairy industry were not available for the public to view, especially with the recent struggles agriculture is having communicating to the public. Regarding agriculture in Vermont, the few places I saw corn and soybeans, the growth was much less than here. I did not see a single pure alfalfa field. Most hayfields were grassy and rank. Hopefully this was a reflection of weather and not hay making practices. Many dairy farms used grazing. Most farms still had tie-stall barns with about a half-dozen free stall barns holding between 75 and up to 250 cows. The Holsteins I could see while driving by were impressive.

Late weed control in soybeans. **The last update discussed the yield loss and nitrogen use of weeds competing with corn. Let's take a look at some Weed Soft yield loss estimates in soybeans: Situation: Soybeans no-till drilled in 7" rows during late-May, weed densities at giant foxtail=50 ft<sup>2</sup>, velvetleaf=10 ft<sup>2</sup>, common ragweed=10 ft<sup>2</sup>, common lambsquarters=10 ft<sup>2</sup>. The potential yield loss in soybeans from this combination of weeds is 17 bu. Yield loss at V3 soybeans and 4-8 weed height: 0.9 bu. Yield loss at V5 soybeans and 8+ weed height: 1.7 bu**

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 9, June 19 2009

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

## Forages & Grains

**PEA APHID** - Surveys indicate that this insect is still very numerous in alfalfa in the southern and east-central areas. Representative counts in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson and Rock counties range from 2-59 per sweep. Winged forms comprise a smaller percentage of the population than previously. Chemical controls have been applied to alfalfa and peas in some instances.

**POTATO LEAFHOPPER** - Nymphs are appearing in alfalfa fields in the southern counties. Populations remain below economic thresholds in 10-12 inch alfalfa, with a few exceptions. One field each in Dane and Sauk counties contained an average of 2.1 and 2.6 per sweep, respectively. Treatment could be justified in these fields. Counts in other areas of the south-central and southeast districts were below 1.0 per sweep. Close observation of second growth alfalfa is advised this month.

**MEADOW SPITTLEBUG** - The first nymphs have reached maturity. Surveyed fields in Columbia, Dane, Juneau and Sauk counties contained 1-4 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. No adults were swept from fields north of Juneau County.

**PLANT BUGS** - Surveys of alfalfa detected low numbers of adults and nymphs in the past week. Counts varied from 0.1-1.5 per sweep in the south-central and southeast counties and averaged 0.4 per sweep. These numbers are well below the economic threshold of 5 plant bugs per sweep.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

## Corn

**TRUE ARMYWORM** - Surveys of V4-V6 fields in the south-central, southeast and east-central counties revealed very light armyworm infestations, with leaf feeding noted on 1-9% of the corn plants. Larvae in Dane County measured 1-1¼ inches long on June 18. Although field populations presently are below economically significant levels, continued scouting for localized outbreaks is recommended. Several black light traps are registering very high numbers of moths.

**EUROPEAN CORN BORER** - Egg deposition and larval hatch are occurring in southern Wisconsin. Minor injury attributed to 1st instar larvae was observed on 1-12% of plants in the fields examined. Most surveyed fields (92%) had no detectable larval population. The peak in moth activity theoretically has occurred in the southern and west-central areas, according to the degree day model available for this insect. Egg deposition by female moths should continue to intensify in the next week if warm nightly temperatures prevail.

**STALK BORER** - Larvae ranging in size from ¾-1¼ inches were found to have caused moderate damage to a small percentage of plants in the margins of corn in Columbia, Dane, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Rock and Washington counties. None of the infestations extended into fields further than is normally expected of this insect. Approximately 10% of the larval population will have migrated from grasses by 1,400 degree days (base 41°F) or June 26 near Madison. Spot treatment is warranted if more than 10% of plants are damaged and should be made before the larvae have tunneled into the stalks.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

## Soybeans

**BEAN LEAF BEETLE** - Minor defoliation was noted in some southern Wisconsin soybean fields. Less than 5% of the plants were affected in fields surveyed in Columbia, Dane and Jefferson counties, and no more than 1-2 adults per 25 feet of row were observed. Treatment is usually justifiable at about 40% defoliation or 39 beetles per foot of row during the vegetative stages.

**SOYBEAN APHID** - A report from Ag Site Crop Consulting indicates that aphids began colonizing soybean fields by June 9 in Dane County and June 10 in eastern Sauk County. Visual surveys of V1-V3 soybeans from June 15-18 found densities of 1-300 aphids per infested plant in 50% of fields checked in the south-central and southeast counties. Near Afton in Rock County, approximately 68% of the plants were infested with as many as 52-300 alates and nymphs per expanding trifoliolate. Soybean growers should begin monitoring fields for developing problems.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

**CORN & SOYBEAN WEED SURVEYS** - Surveys of weed pressure and composition in corn continued for the third and probably final week. Approximately 70% of surveyed corn fields have been treated with post-emergence herbicides, and the few remaining untreated sites are moderately to heavily infested. Emphasis has shifted to soybeans now that most corn acreage is beyond the critical period of weed control (i.e. the interval in which irreversible yield losses occur before crops are large enough to compete aggressively). By contrast, many soybean fields are just entering the critical period.

**VENICE MALLOW** - Small seedlings have begun to appear in southern Wisconsin soybean fields. This species emerges later than most weeds and has exceptionally hardy seeds that remain viable for 50 years. Although Venice mallow is relatively uncommon in field crops, these characteristics make it capable of spreading rapidly. Most infestations can be effectively managed with herbicide application timed for late spring.

**COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS** - This weed remains prevalent in many corn and soybean fields. Plants were observed at densities of 6-50 plants per sq. meter at 91% of corn sites and 82% of soybean sites. Individual plants in soybeans were slightly more advanced than those in corn, measuring 4 inches or taller.

**GIANT RAGWEED** - Surveys indicate that this weed is more common in Wisconsin soybeans this spring than in corn. Plants varying in height from 4-8 inches were noted in 36% of soybean fields and 24% of corn fields examined this week. Population densities in soybeans were 1-5 plants per sq. meter. At such densities, 10-33% yield loss can occur.

**GRASSES** - Grasses were observed in 67% of corn fields and 46% of soybean fields surveyed from June 9-16. The average height of those plants measured was 8 inches and 6 inches, respectively. Densities in both corn and soybeans ranged from 6-50 plants per sq. meter. One exceptionally grassy field in Dodge County contained an extremely high density of 500 or more plants (greater than 20 inches tall) per sq. meter. Yield loss can be expected at this location.

--Clarissa Hammond, DATCP Weed Scientist

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

## Friday, June 19, 2009

### Yellow Soybeans and Nitrogen Fixation

Several questions have arisen over the last few days related to the "yellow" or "N deficient" appearance of many soybean fields across Wisconsin. This symptomology is typical given the cool environmental conditions and slow growth that has plagued much of our soybean crop. In soybean, active N-fixation does not begin until the V2-V3 (2 to 3 open trifoliates) growth stages. Even if you were to properly dig a soybean plant, identify and split a nodule, the red appearance does not necessarily mean that fixation has fully begun. Given our rainfall pattern over the last 24 hours and projected temperatures these yellow beans will likely recover in the next 3-5 days if not sooner.