

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

June 30, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** June 29 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	8	2
Short	28	14
Adequate	59	77
Surplus	5	7

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to June 27	Normal		Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	75	8	784	780	0.06	2.60	-0.38	13.03
Madison	77	8	978	972	0.08	4.54	1.00	21.29

Wisconsin Crop Progress						
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average			
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year	
Oats Headed	65	59	72	42	70	
First Cutting Hay	85	94	94	86	88	
Average Corn Height	20	15	24	20	28	

**Observations of the week:** Soybean aphid populations seem to be similar to last week. They are present in places but not dense enough nor is the crop at a stage where they would be treated yet anyway. We were reminded that soybean aphids can have hot spots in fields. The north side of the sentinel field had no aphids while the south side had a hot spot in the same place the aphids were found last week. A few potato leafhoppers have been caught in what is now 3<sup>rd</sup> crop regrowth, but the population was not at treatment thresholds.

On another note, the Winnebago County Extension office receives numerous horticulture calls from urban homeowners. I believe last week had the highest volume of calls I have experienced since working for Extension. The majority of calls have been related tree health and insects in ornamentals. While there is some leaf disease, called anthracnose which there are types that infect trees too, I suspect some of the problems may have been related to the rapid weather change from cold and wet to hot and humid. Pile this on 3 past dry summers and 2 past harsh winters and trees and shrubs have

been under stress. We have been sending samples to the plant pathology lab but no clear disease or insect problems are being detected.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 10, June 26 2009

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

## Forages & Grains

**ALFALFA WEEVIL** - Larval populations in the southern half of the state have been reduced to less than 0.2 per sweep due to pupation. The threat from this early-season pest has largely subsided, although isolated problems may persist in some northern alfalfa fields. Continued scouting is advised for this area.

**POTATO LEAFHOPPER** - Nymphs are evident in virtually all second growth alfalfa. Surveys indicate that counts have increased over last week, but remain below economic levels in the majority of fields. Numbers in Dane, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Rock and Sauk counties varied from 0.1-1.8 per sweep, while in Columbia County, high populations of 2.1-2.7 per sweep were noted in 3 of 6 fields checked. If the hot, dry weather continues, the V-shaped yellowing of leaf tips referred to as "hopperburn" may begin to appear in localized fields. Leafhopper damage should not be confused with yellowing due to nutrient deficiency, drought stress or summer black stem disease. Treatment is justifiable at 2.0 leafhoppers per sweep in alfalfa taller than 12 inches.

**PEA APHID** - This aphid continues to be the most abundant insect in Wisconsin alfalfa fields. Counts in the south-central and southwestern counties ranged from 2-65 per sweep, with an average of 13 per sweep. The highest population was encountered near Springfield Corners in western Dane County.

**MEADOW SPITTLEBUG** - Adults were found to be relatively common in the south-central and southwest areas, but could not be collected in any significant quantity in the counties to the north. Mixed counts of adults and immatures varied from 0.4-1.2 per sweep. Final instar nymphs constituted 50% of the population in several fields.

**COWPEA APHID** - Low populations of this shiny black aphid were detected near Lodi in Columbia County at the rate of 1-4 per 10 sweeps. None could be found in alfalfa surveyed in the adjacent counties. The cowpea aphid has not been observed or reported in the state since 2003.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

## Corn

**EUROPEAN CORN BORER** - Surveys conducted in Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Sauk counties revealed extremely light infestations, with 93% of fields examined having no detectable population. Practically no egg masses have been found in corn in the previous 2-3 weeks and very few plants are showing leaf feeding by early instar larvae. The largest infestation observed thus far was in the Arena area of Iowa County where 12% of the plants were affected,

but even such a population is inconsequential. The treatment window for first generation larvae has opened in the southern and advanced west-central areas where 800 degree days (base 50°F) were surpassed this week.

**CORN ROOTWORM** - The emergence of this insect has begun in the southern counties and larvae presently are feeding on corn roots. Should high winds accompany thunderstorms or periods of heavy rains in the next several weeks, farmers will learn how effective their rootworm management programs have been. The first adults can be expected by early to mid-July.

**STALK BORER** - Damage to corn has been infrequent this season and primarily limited to the edge rows, with no more than 16% of plants showing leaf feeding (see image below). It appears unlikely that fields will develop populations high enough to warrant spot treatment before the V7 stage or 1,700 degree days (base 41°F) have been reached. Larvae in Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties measured  $\frac{3}{4}$  -  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long on June 23.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

## Soybeans

**SOYBEAN APHID** - Examination of 61 soybean fields in the V1-V5 growth stages revealed an average of 10% incidence (i.e. the number of plants with aphids) and 11 aphids per infested plant in the past week. Surveys in Columbia, Dane, Green and Rock counties found low densities of 1 - 18 aphids per infested plant on 5-60% of plants in the fields checked. In Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Sauk counties, densities varied from 3-163 aphids per infested plant on 25-70% of plants. An exceptional field near Spring Green in Sauk County had colonies of 3-900 aphids per infested plant on 70% of plants, and parasitism by the braconid wasp *Lysephlebus testaceipes* was noted (see image below). Moderately infested soybean fields such as this one may develop economic populations within the next two weeks. In the central counties of Adams, Fond du Lac and Marquette, densities varied from 2-11 aphids per infested plant on 5-38% of plants. No aphids were detected in 61% of the fields appraised in the southern half of the state.

**ROSE CHAFER** - Soybean fields on sandy soils in Adams, Columbia, Juneau and Monroe counties are showing 5-10% of plants with minor defoliation caused by this insect. While the damage currently is limited to a few holes in the leaves, more extensive feeding injury may appear in the next 2-3 weeks as additional beetles emerge.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

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

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Brief Weather and Disease Update - June 23-29, 2009

Weather conditions last week were rather hot and humid early in the week, as temperatures were in the low 90s throughout many our research project areas. Late in the week, temperatures did fall back into the 80s and now into the 70s and 80s. Rainfall was light, in

particular at our winter wheat variety trial locations. Weekly rainfall totals were: Arlington: 0.01 inches, Chilton: 0.11 inches, Janesville: 0.01 inches, Lancaster: 0 inches

Winter wheat is past flowering for the state - the risk window for Fusarium head blight. To determine if FHB was a problem in your field, assess fields during the soft dough growth stage. We are currently taking field notes and will update you shortly on the preliminary results.

Soybean diseases to date have been low, primarily bacterial blight and brown spot. Remember though, this is an excellent time to scout for early season stress that may be caused by soilborne pathogens. Also, take advantage of the free SCN testing program, sponsored by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board. For further information, please contact Colleen Smith at [clsmith8@wisc.edu](mailto:clsmith8@wisc.edu) or 608-262-7702.

Posted by Paul ([pde@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:pde@plantpath.wisc.edu)) at 6:26 AM 0 comments

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

#### Fusarium Head Blight Status - June 24

While much of the winter wheat crop is well past flowering, there are still pockets of the state, especially near Lake Michigan with wheat heading into flowering this week. The current Fusarium head blight forecast shows a low risk for the majority of the state, however, there are some pockets in west central and southwest with a medium risk for infection, and pockets along Lake Michigan and the northwestern portion of the state in the high risk category. The one to three day risk maps show a reduce area under risk for Fusarium head blight each day.

Current FHB Status: Today (June 24), both Shawn and I were at the Winter Wheat Variety Trial site at Lancaster. Low levels of FHB were noted in the trial (See images below). Our preliminary observations indicate the highest level of incidence level (i.e., the number of infected heads) is around 9% in only a few plots and that the severity of infected kernels is very low (meaning that index values that are a measure of incidence and severity are less than 1% at the moment). We will be taking our more detailed field notes for FHB over the next week as we move into the soft dough growth stage. This is our recommended timing for FHB assessments for growers and others as well. Assessments for FHB can be made in the field by assessing 100 consecutive heads, noting the number of heads with symptoms of FHB and also the severity of infected heads (the number of kernels infected on a head).

Rainfall over the past week at the winter wheat variety trial locations (June 17 to June 24):

Arlington = 1.7 inches (temperatures ranged from the 60s into the 90s)

Chilton = 0.2 inches (temperatures ranged from the 50s to around 90)

Janesville = 2.64 inches (temperatures similar to Arlington)

Lancaster = 1.38 inches (temperatures similar to Arlington and Janesville)