

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

May 11, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: May 10, 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	3%	2%
Short	7%	10%
Adequate	65%	69%
Surplus	25%	19%

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to May 10	Normal		Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	57	5	191	161	0.48	5.69	0.38	7.90
Madison	58	5	272	236	1.71	12.33	5.81	14.78

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Planted	23	40	43	25	54
Soybean Planted	4	3	3	5	18
Oats Emerged	39	49	58	19	48
Spring Tillage Complete	50	67	67	35	66

Weird Observation of the Week: The heavy snowmelt of the past two winters and bursts of large rainfall have done some damage to grass waterways around the county. In some places, the water found new paths across the field creating wash outs and rill erosion deep enough to require a little grooming to repair. Please consider contacting professional help from the NRCS or Land and Water Conservation office to get suggestions about the best way to repair these waterways.

OK, here is the weird observation part. It is well documented that weed seed travels down slope with water and erosion. I spend a lot of time in graduate school documenting this. Same is true for these

blown out waterways. In one field I visited last week the weed seedling density clearly was much greater were sediment settled versus just a few feet away. One aspect of erosion rarely thought about is spreading weed seeds.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 3, May 8 2009

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

Looking Ahead

ALFALFA WEEVIL - Adult emergence has increased and spring egg deposition is underway in advanced areas. Alfalfa fields, especially in the southern part of the state, should start showing evidence of this insect (e.g. small larvae and tip feeding) by May 12, which is three days earlier than the date listed in last week's bulletin.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - Pupation is likely to begin over the weekend in the southern and west-central districts, with the first moths of the season appearing in black light traps by May 18. A very light spring flight is anticipated based on results of the 2008 fall larval abundance survey, which documented the third lowest population in recorded history of corn borer surveys in Wisconsin (0.09 borer per plant).

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - The major influx of leafhoppers from source populations in the south-central U.S. can be expected in the next 1-2 weeks. Examination of historical issues of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin since 1956 showed this annual event has occurred as early as April 15 in 1981 to as late as June 7 in 1996.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

BLACK CUTWORM - Significant flights of 9-19 moths were again registered at the Barneveld, Dodgeville and Spring Green trap sites from April 30-May 3, and near Arena and Belmont on the nights of May 3-6. Pheromone traps distributed in Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Monroe, Richland, Rock and Sauk counties captured a total of 175 moths during the last reporting period, with an average of 8 per trap. Recent surges in flight activity suggest that oviposition by female moths is intensifying.

Projected cutting dates have been established for the southern districts based on the first concentrated captures on April 24, and are as follows: southwest May 29-June 1, south-central May 28-June 4, west-central May 31-June 2. These intervals represent the earliest start of the period when corn will be susceptible to damage by 4th instar larvae, and not the potential for outbreaks. Scouting should begin one week in advance of predicted first cutting dates and continue until the five-leaf stage (V5).

ARMYWORM - Captures of moths in black light traps have been extremely light so far. The first adults were reported in the trap at Janesville on the evening of April 13, which was a few days earlier than in the previous year. The principal factor influencing true armyworm counts in spring is the frequency of southerly wind events that carry migrants into the state.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

BEAN LEAF BEETLE - Less than half of the beetles that entered the 2008-09 winter are likely to emerge this spring, according to a University of Minnesota prediction model. Mortality estimates based upon winter temperature data range from 45% in the southeast to 82% in the far northwest, with a mean of 61% mortality for the 18 Wisconsin counties assessed (see table below). These figures indicate high mortality among the overwintered generation of beetles and a low risk of defoliation for most early soybeans this spring. A survey to assess the distribution and abundance of overwintered beetles is planned for this month.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

BEAN LEAF BEETLE WINTER MORTALITY ESTIMATES

COUNTY	LOCATION	PERCENT MORTALITY		
		2009	2008	2007
SOUTH				
Milwaukee	Milwaukee	45	53	36
Kenosha	Kenosha	49	39	—
Dane	Madison	54	52	43
Green	Monroe	54	53	—
Waukesha	Waukesha	55	61	—
Columbia	Portage	57	54	—
Grant	Platteville	57	55	—
Sauk	Baraboo	61	60	—
CENTRAL				
Manitowoc	Manitowoc	54	47	—
La Crosse	La Crosse	58	56	43
Brown	Green Bay	60	54	43
Wood	Marshfield	65	67	—
Eau Claire	Eau Claire	66	64	50
NORTH				
Marathon	Wausau	67	64	51
Langlade	Antigo	73	71	—
Florence	Florence	73	70	—
Oneida	Rhineland	73	69	60
Douglas	Gordon	82	73	—

Carrilo, et al. 2005. Supercooling point of bean leaf beetle (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Minnesota and a revised predictive model for survival at low temperatures. Environmental Entomology. 34: 1395-1401.

Weeds

CRITICAL PERIOD OF WEED CONTROL - Corn and soybean growers should be aware of the critical period of weed control in the first 4-6 weeks following emergence. Crops are highly sensitive to competition for water and nutrients during this interval and can suffer serious yield losses if weeds are not effectively managed. It is important for fields to be kept as weed free as possible until this designated critical period has passed.

COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS - Most of the seedlings encountered in fields in Iowa and Lafayette counties were less than 1 inch tall, while those observed in Fond du Lac County were only about ½ inch tall. Densities were low to moderate for now, but this is likely to change as soil disturbances such as tillage and planting continue to trigger seed germination over the next few weeks.

COMMON RAGWEED - Seedlings measuring less than ½ inch in height were noted in Fond du Lac County on May 6. Plants at these early stages of development are still relatively easy to control using standard weed management techniques.

VELVETLEAF - Velvetleaf seedlings have begun to emerge in the southern third of the state. Densities of fewer than 5 plants per m² were noted in most areas, although an exceptional field in Fond du Lac County contained more than 50 per m². Early-season control is advised, since plants left to mature produce exceptionally hardy seeds that can persist in the soil for up to 50 years.