

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

May 19, 2009

Alfalfa Forage Quality: May 15, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 17-18", Vegetative, 230 RFQ
 May 19, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 20", Vegetative, 210 RFQ

For state-wide data please go to this website: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/scissorsclip/>

Measurements including other counties indicate PEAQ Stick estimates have been at 210-250 RFQ while scissors clips have been about 30 to 50 RFQ points higher. For the combination of high quality and plentiful yield it is recommended to target cutting at 170 RFQ in a scissors clip to harvest 150 RFQ feed. Winnebago County scissor clip samples currently are at the lab. Watch for results next week.

PEAQ Sticks can be ordered from the Midwest Forage Association for \$10 plus shipping. Download an order form at: www.midwestforage.org/PEAQ.php

Wisconsin Crop Progress: May 18, 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	0
Short	6	11
Adequate	57	67
Surplus	37	12

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Precipitation			
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to May 17	Normal	Last Week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	51	-4	235	218	0.78	6.47	0.59	8.68
Madison	55	-1	321	307	1.14	13.47	6.27	15.92

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Planted	39	74	62	53	72
Soybean Planted	14	12	22	20	34
Oats Emerged	48	69	77	39	68
Spring Tillage Complete	60	79	79	62	80

Observation of the Week: Yes, alfalfa is being cut in Winnebago County already (May 18).

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 4, May 15 2009

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

Alfalfa

ALFALFA WEEVIL - Adult populations have increased during the past week in the southern districts. Counts in alfalfa vary from 1-6 per 50 sweeps, and small larvae are emerging in fields with a pronounced southern exposure. At this time larval numbers are very low, averaging about 1-2 per 50 sweeps. Tip feeding injury to alfalfa should become evident within the next two weeks.

MEADOW SPITTLEBUG - Egg hatch was noted on May 7 in Richland County. Nymphs remain scarce and have not moved onto alfalfa plants in substantial numbers.

CLOVER LEAF WEEVIL - Alfalfa fields surveyed in the southern areas contained low populations of 1-3 larvae per 50 sweeps. Only one field in Dane County had 8 per 50 sweeps, which is still comparatively low. Minor feeding injury was noted on a few clover plants.

PEA APHID - Observations in the south-central and southwest districts showed some increase in populations since the last report. Numbers of wingless females and nymphs varied from 11-72 per sweep in Columbia, Dane, Grant, Green and Iowa counties, in comparison to 5-12 aphids per 50 sweeps noted in the same areas last week. In the southeast, numbers ranged from 4-48 per 50 sweeps, with an average of 21 per 50 sweeps. A significant portion of the counts were comprised of small nymphs, indicating that reproduction is well underway. Migration to peas can be expected later this month or early in June.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG - Adults are common in field collections throughout the southern half of the state, with populations ranging from 1-19 per 50 sweeps. Nymphs could not be found this week in any alfalfa field checked in the central and southern areas.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

BLACK CUTWORM - Moth activity, as measured by pheromone traps, continued to be light to moderate in the last week. Numbers ranged from 0-14 per trap, with a total of 124 moths captured on the nights of May 8-13. Egg deposition is expected to be intense at this time. Small larvae produced by the spring flight of moths could be encountered in emerging corn fields as early as next week. Other susceptible crops such as asparagus, cabbage, peas, potatoes and leafy greens should be scrutinized for larval feeding later this month. Field and weather conditions this spring are highly conducive for outbreaks of this pest, the most destructive of all cutworms.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - The first moths of the season may appear in black light traps by May 22 in the south, May 28 in the central areas, and June 4 in the north. Larval surveys conducted last fall indicate that there is an extremely low potential for economic infestation by the first generation in June. Subsequent reports and black light trap counts listed under the **TRAPPING NETWORKS** link in each bulletin issue should be watched closely to appraise the progress of this insect.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Soybeans

BEAN LEAF BEETLE - Preliminary surveys for overwintered beetles in alfalfa have been negative. In previous years the first adults were swept from fields as early as May 1, but a later emergence and fewer adults are expected this season due to cool spring temperatures and high winter mortality. Field specialists are prepared to begin their annual survey in alfalfa as soon as the first beetles are detected.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Weeds

GARLIC MUSTARD - Dense infestations of second-year plants are apparent along roadsides and in wooded areas throughout southern Wisconsin. Mechanical control measures such as hand-pulling or cutting flower stalks at the soil surface should be implemented at this time, just as plants are flowering and prior to seed set. Hand-pulling individual

plants is very effective in reducing populations and seed productivity as long as the upper portion of the roots are removed. Cutting stalks during the flowering stage is a less disruptive technique. Plants should be bagged and disposed of to prevent seed dispersal.

The Wisconsin DNR permits landfill disposal of garlic mustard and other invasive plants collected for eradication purposes. Invasive weeds must be separated from other yard waste and placed in a clear plastic bag. Further guidelines are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/publications/pdfs/WeedDisposalLetter.pdf>.

WHITE CAMPION - Surveys conducted in Grant County on May 12 found a few early flowering plants. The first seedlings were noted in southern fields several weeks ago. This species is an occasional problem in no-till corn and soybeans, but is generally more abundant in alfalfa and small grains crops. White campion is a common impurity in clover and forage seed.

COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS - Seedlings in unplanted, no-till fields in Jefferson County measured 2 inches tall on May 11, while those present in tilled and planted fields had only recently emerged. Development of this common annual weed should be monitored over the next 3-5 weeks during the critical period of weed control.

GRASSES - Annual grasses have become increasingly prevalent in the past week, especially in the southern areas where 250 degree days (base 50°F) were surpassed this week. A few of the surveyed fields in Grant, Iowa, Jefferson and Walworth counties showed densities of 100 plants per m². Among the species noted were giant foxtail, yellow foxtail, green foxtail, wild proso millet and woolly cupgrass. Grasses such as these not only compete with field crops, but also provide suitable oviposition sites for pest insects such as the black cutworm and true armyworm. Fields with an abundance of grassy weeds indicate the need to adjust management strategies for improved grass control.

--Clarissa Hammond, DATCP Weed Scientist

From "The Soy Report", UW Specialists, Shawn Conley and Paul Esker

At Janesville and Lancaster, wheat growth and development currently ranges from Feekes 4-5 (pseudostem erection; Zadoks 30) to Feekes 6 (1st detectable node; Zadoks 31). In our assessments at those two locations, we have found symptoms of the Septoria leaf blotch complex, leaf rust, and stripe rust. The level of disease is relatively low and specifically, we have only noted symptoms in the lower canopy and nothing on the newest emerged leaf. At this range of growth stages, we do not recommend the use of foliar fungicides for Septoria or the rust diseases. Scouting over the next two weeks, however, will help to determine if these diseases are increasing in the canopy. Furthermore, the use of the thresholds we outlined in our Wisconsin Crop Manager article can help determine the need for a foliar fungicide as we move into flag leaf emergence.

We have also completed our first assessments at the Chilton variety trial location. Wheat was at Feekes 4-5. Similar to the other locations, we observed Septoria leaf blotch, leaf rust, and stripe rust. Of all the samples we have assessed, only 1 had symptoms of leaf rust on the newest leaf. Our recommendation is similar to Janesville and Lancaster at the moment.