

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

May 26, 2009

Alfalfa Forage Quality: May 15, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 17-18", Vegetative, 230 RFQ
 May 19, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 20", Vegetative, 210 RFQ
 May 21, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 24" Vegetative, 190 RFQ
 May 26, PEAQ Stick RFQ: 29" Early Bud, 160 RFQ

When averaging PEAQ stick estimates and scissors clips in Region 2 (Outagamie, Waupaca, etc.) and 4 (Winnebago, Waushara, etc.) RFQ appears to have dropped to less than 200. Alfalfa fields are now coming into bud stage. With an average decline of 5 RFQ per day, cutting should likely take place at the end of the week/weekend. As the alfalfa crop matures, scissors clip and PEAQ stick estimates become closer. 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. I should have another scissors clip result tomorrow and Friday.

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

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 24, 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	1	9
Short	18	22
Adequate	64	63
Surplus	17	6

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Precipitation			
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to May 23	Normal	Last Week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	59	2	318	292	0.09	6.56	0.07	8.77
Madison	63	4	424	398	0.31	13.78	5.87	16.23

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Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Planted	69	87	82	77	84
Corn Emerged	15	45	42	22	45
Soybeans Planted	30	52	54	50	57
Spring Tillage Complete	81	88	90	84	89

Observation of the Week: Watch out for carry-over and rotation intervals when using cover crops.

There are three locations in the county where I put out small studies frost seeding red clover into winter wheat in order to gain weed suppression after wheat harvest and fix nitrogen for the following year corn crop. Overall, plant counts of the red clover were satisfactory with 7 to 18 plants per square foot averaged across subsample counts on a farm. At one location, based on injury symptoms, it appears an herbicide with a pigment inhibitor was used the previous year in the corn silage. Some corn herbicides with pigment inhibitors have an 18 month rotation restriction to alfalfa and clover. This may be the case in this field. While the red clover was not completely wiped out in this field, it serves as a good reminder about what questions to ask prior to trying something new like cover crops.

Thanks to Loree Johnson of Larson Coop for pointing out she has found some Powdery Mildew in winter wheat. While taking the red clover frost seeding counts, I also found one field had Powdery Mildew on the lower 1/3 of the plants. The variety was Kaskaskia. Based on UW winter wheat performance trials, Kaskaskia is one of the most susceptible varieties to Powdery Mildew. Variety suitability makes a big difference with this disease. Winter wheat variety trials can be found at:

<http://soybean.uwex.edu/wheattrials/printable/documents/A3868WinterWheat.pdf>

A guide for treating winter wheat with fungicides in Wisconsin can be found at:

http://soybean.uwex.edu/documents/Do_I_Need_to_Spray.pdf

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 5, May 22 2009

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

Alfalfa

ALFALFA WEEVIL - Larval populations continue to be low in Wisconsin alfalfa fields, 7 or less per 25 sweeps in the southern and west-central counties. Alfalfa fields should be watched for this pest in the next several weeks. The University of Wisconsin recommends a threshold of 40% tip feeding 7-10 days prior to harvest as the criterion for determining if control is warranted.

POTATO LEAFHOPPER - Migrants appeared this week in very low numbers. Surveys conducted in the south-central and west-central districts revealed counts of 0-2 per 25 sweeps in 14 of 49 fields checked. Adults were swept as far north as Osseo in Trempealeau County.

PEA APHID - Populations in alfalfa ranged from 11-53 per 25 sweeps and averaged about 23 per 25 sweeps. The highest counts were documented in Dodge and Green counties. Parasitism by the braconid wasp *Aphidius* was observed in Dane, Green, La Crosse and Monroe counties and ladybeetles were likewise common in many fields, although there was no evidence of major reductions in aphid numbers due to these natural enemies. Winged individuals have been detected in alfalfa but not early peas.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG - Field observations show adult numbers vary from 0-11 per 25 sweeps, with an average of 5 per 25 sweeps.

CLOVER LEAF WEEVIL - Larvae of this species continue to be found in insignificant numbers in scattered alfalfa.

MEADOW SPITTLEBUG - Spittle masses are evident in southern alfalfa fields and in advanced areas of west-central Wisconsin where they occasionally average 1 per 100 stems. Nymphs are in the early instars and are still quite small.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

BLACK CUTWORM - Small larvae were noted to have caused minor leaf injury to a few plants in a corn field near Evansville in Rock County. The infested area and degree of damage was insignificant to the planting as a whole, but this observation emphasizes the need for surveillance of individual fields later this month. Larval development has accelerated in the last few days, and corn in advanced areas of the state will be susceptible to cutting by May 24.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER - The first emergence of moths can be expected over the weekend near Beloit and La Crosse where 362-373 degree days (base 50°F) had accumulated as of May 21. This annual event begins at approximately 374 degree days.

--Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Weeds

VELVETLEAF - Secondary flushes of velvetleaf seedlings are appearing in V1-V3 Rock County corn fields. Densities currently are low, and range from 1-2 plants per sq. meter. Velvetleaf is found principally in row crops, but may also be a problem in gardens and disturbed habitats. In corn fields, just 3 plants per foot of row can cause yield losses of 20% or more. In soybeans, 5 plants per sq. meter may result in losses of 20-25%. This prolific producer of seeds will emerge in successive flushes over the next 6-8 weeks.

COMMON RAGWEED - Seedlings in corn fields averaged ¾ inch tall on May 20 in Dane, Green and Rock counties. Densities of 1-2 plants per sq. meter were noted. A majority of plants are expected to have emerged following the accumulation of 305 degree days (base 50°F). This point has been surpassed throughout southern Wisconsin and in advanced west-central areas.

GARLIC MUSTARD - Second-year plants in the southern counties have begun to develop seed capsules. Because the seeds continue to mature even after garlic mustard is uprooted, plants must be bagged and disposed of to prevent seed dispersal. Pulled plants should not be composted since most piles do not generate sufficient heat to destroy all seeds.

GRASSES - Annual grasses such as giant foxtail, wild proso millet, and woolly cupgrass continued to appear this week in fields in the southern and central areas. Small ¼-1 inch seedlings were found in V1-V3 corn in Dane, Green and Rock counties, where densities ranged from 1-10 plants per sq. meter. At these levels, yield losses of 2-10% can be expected if herbicide applications are improperly timed.

--Clarissa Hammond, DATCP Weed Scientist