

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

**Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent**

May 4, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** May 3, 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%	1%
Short	4%	8%
Adequate	61%	76%
Surplus	35%	15%

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to May 2	Normal		Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	50	0	122	111	0.52	5.17	0.39	7.39
Madison	54	3	197	169	1.14	10.62	4.79	12.08

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn Planted	3	12	17	3	25
Oats Planted	64	90	74	22	65
Oats Emerged	13	43	31	9	27
Spring Tillage Complete	41	50	50	12	46

Weird Observation of the Week: On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> I broadcast about 1.5 bushels/acre of oats for a cover crop and then drug it into the soil with a small harrow behind an ATV. This process went OK with a modest amount of the seed remaining on the surface. Since I just wanted a cover crop and no yield, this was fine. On Tuesday, I took a look at the seed and found it had imbibed water just fine and some was beginning to germinate. On Friday I took another peek and found a very large portion of the seeds had the starch devoured out. Upon digging around a little, I observed many ground beetles (unsure of the exact type) and a few wire worms. A few years back I read about biological control of weed seeds by insects and rodents in a publication by Michigan State. They sure had that one right!

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 2, May 1 2009

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

Looking Ahead

Volume 54 Number 2 Date 05/01/2009

**ALFALFA WEEVIL** - Surveys indicate that this insect has begun to migrate into alfalfa fields. Adults were first noted on April 29 in Green and Lafayette counties, although counts were very low. The highest number of alfalfa weevils which could be obtained was 1 per 100 sweeps. The spring emergence of adults is expected to accelerate in the next week if temperatures increase.

**BLACK CUTWORM** - Significant flights of 9 or more moths in 2 nights have been registered at several pheromone trap sites, and nearly all trap locations have yielded some moths. Strong southwesterly air currents directed large numbers of migrants into the state on the evening of April 24. High counts of 13 and 27 moths per trap were documented near Barneveld in Iowa County and Belmont in Lafayette County, respectively.

**SEEDCORN MAGGOT** - Spring weather conditions which delay seed germination and prolong adult emergence, namely low nighttime temperatures and high soil moisture, increase the potential for injury to crops such as beans, corn and cucurbits. Conditions are right for damage to occur this season.

**EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR** - Larvae in Iowa, Richland and Sauk counties were in the 2nd instar ( $\frac{3}{4}$  inch) as of April 30, and tents measured about 3-4 inches long and 2 inches across. Webbing in wild cherry trees is still small and inconspicuous in most areas. Control efforts in the next 1-2 weeks will prove most effective.

**GYPSY MOTH** - The first emergence of larvae was noted in Dane County on April 27. According to the BioSim Gypsy Moth Phenology Model, 10% hatch should occur between May 1 and 8 in the southern half of the state, as far north as Eau Claire County.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Corn

**TRUE ARMYWORM** - Unusually warm weather and high winds on the night of April 24 also brought this migrant species into the state. The first true armyworm moths were captured at Janesville in Rock County on April 13, and a few have been caught sporadically since then. Seventeen moths were registered in the black light trap on April 29.

-- Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist

Weeds

**GIANT RAGWEED** - This annual broadleaf weed was the predominant species observed in no-till fields in Dane, Iowa, Sauk and Richland counties as of April 28. Densities ranged 1-200 per m<sup>2</sup>, with the heaviest growth occurring near field margins. The seedlings evident in no-till fields this spring are reflective of last season's failed management efforts. Because giant ragweed emergence occurs over an extended time period, repeated herbicide treatments may be

required to achieve full control. Making note of problem areas with dense ragweed growth can help to direct future management decisions.

**COMMON LAMBSQUARTERS** - Seedlings appeared to be more prevalent in the southwest than in other areas surveyed. The average density in Iowa, Richland and Sauk counties was 10 plants per m<sup>2</sup>, although localized areas within some of the fields checked contained more than 100 seedlings per m<sup>2</sup>. Plants were about 1 inch tall. Development and abundance of this species should be monitored in the upcoming weeks as agronomic crops begin to emerge and the critical period of weed control approaches.

**HORSEWEED** - Surveys of no-till fields in the southwest and south-central districts found the average height of seedlings was 4 inches on April 29. Densities were moderate, averaging 5 plants per m<sup>2</sup>. Horseweed acts as a winter or summer annual and reproduces by wind-dispersed seed. Measures which inhibit seed development are the most effective form of control.

**CREEPING CHARLIE** - This relentless broadleaf lawn weed has begun to flower in Dane County, and presumably throughout much of southern Wisconsin. Spring is an optimal time to weed or treat creeping Charlie, especially in April and early May when plants are in full bloom and most susceptible to herbicides. At current temperatures, full bloom should begin by May 4 in the south, May 7 in the central areas, and May 13 in the north (200-350 degree days (base 50°F)).

Due to its low growing mat of rooted horizontal stems, creeping Charlie requires special manual weeding methods. Hand weeding or raking may be effective for small problem areas, and should be done when the soil is moist (as the tiny rootlets lift more easily from the ground). For larger areas, broadleaf weed killers applied at full bloom seem the best approach for satisfactory control.

*--Clarissa Hammond, DATCP Weed Scientist*