

NWNYS Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team
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TAg NOTES

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The hot humid conditions of this past week were welcomed as long as that meant no more rain. The rain pummeled NWNYS from July 12 through the 16th and dumped up to 6 inches in parts of Wayne County. Rainfall amounts decreased as you moved south with the Penn Yan area hovering around 1.5 inches. In areas of Wayne County there are many low areas in corn and soybeans that were under water too long and died. These scars will eventually fill in with weeds and turn green again.

Winter Wheat

The wheat crop was looking very nice as wheat began to dry down. Some pink head scab was visible in some fields but it could have been a lot worse. We had a couple of rainy days as much of the wheat was flowering.

Wheat harvest started off in a hurry to the west and some of the first fields began coming out on July 6. Many fields were dried down further than expected when the rains began on the 12th. The result: probably 2/3

of this year's white winter wheat is sprouted! Many fields also lodged due to the heavy rains and strong winds.

On the flip side, the red winter wheat harvest has been stellar and we have heard of many reports of above average grain yields. Much of the straw is in good shape and should bring a favorable price.

Alfalfa

At the TAg team meetings in Penn Yan and Geneseo last week, **Potato Leafhopper (PLH)** was found in extraordinary numbers. They are here in full force with nymphs of all sizes. Many of the TAg participants had fields that were over threshold but needed to be cut. After cutting these fields, producers will have to watch carefully as the new regrowth begins. Based on current numbers, most of these will need to be sprayed early on. If you haven't been checking your new seedings, now is the time. These plants are not

established enough to face a huge onslaught of PLH.

One of the TAg members had a PLH resistant alfalfa variety right next to a non-resistant. The visual spoke for itself. The resistant field was tall and green while the non-resistant was stunted and had a bad case of "hopper burn". You might think that the PLH resistant variety had less PLH. But when we swept it, there were more than double the amount of leafhoppers! Remember, that the amount of resistance increases each season. Therefore, the PLH threshold for new seedings should be the same regardless of the variety.

Mike with participants in this year's Ontario County Soybean TAg Team.



The current hot humid conditions are perfect for corn growth. Many fields were starting to tassel at the beginning of the week. **Corn rootworm (CRW)** adults synchronize their emergence from the soil with pollination. The adults feed on the corn pollen as their main source of protein and will also feed on emerging silks which can prevent proper ear pollination.



Western (Left) and Northern (Right) Corn Root Worms Adult Stage.

The TAg team on July 13 found larvae, pupae, and one unemerged adult when we dug up a corn plant that has goose-necked in the field. We spread the soil over a black plastic garbage bag to see the white larvae and pupae easier. Root feeding and scarring was evident. This field had not tasseled yet and it looked like the CRW were going to time it just right. While sampling corn in Penn Yan on July 18, Nancy Glazier was able to find western CRW beetles on silks of pollinating corn.

European corn borers were also easy to find. The first generation larvae were burrowing just above leaf axils into the stalk. The larvae push their wastes out of the hole and small piles could be found on the leaf below. Obviously, these were non-Bt corn fields. This first generation will continue to feed in the stalk, pupate, and emerge to mate and produce the second generation. Most of these eggs will be laid on the leaves closest

to the ear. The second generation will continue to tunnel in the plant and even into the shank which can cause ear drop.

Soybeans

The wet soil conditions have resulted in a resurgence of some of the leaf diseases that were evident earlier in the year. **Brown spot and bacterial pustule** cause a brown speckling on the leaves and many of these infected leaves are yellowing and falling off. I have had a couple of calls inquiring if they had **Soybean Rust! No we do not have soybean rust in NY.** In fact, SBR has not been found in any commercial soybean field in the United States. It has been found in 2 soybean sentinel plots, one in FL and one in GA. However, conditions in the far south have been very dry and not conducive to sporulation and spread from kudzu to soybeans.

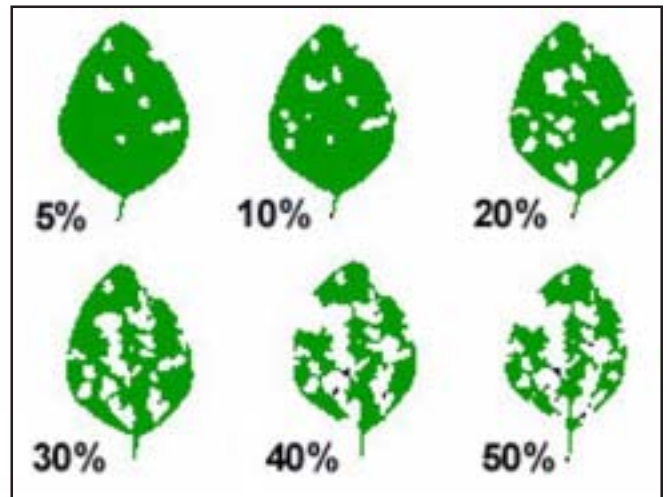
Monitoring of sentinel plots throughout NY continues on a weekly basis. Most of the earlier planted plots are at full flower (R2) and some small pods have formed on the bottom nodes. Growth stage R3 will be officially achieved when the fourth node from the top has a pod that is 3/16" in length. That will not be far away!

Soybean aphids showed up in early June but have not made much noise. I have continued to see small populations but the predators such as ladybird beetles, seem to be keeping them in check. The hot humid conditions are also perfect for parasitic fungi to wipe out aphid populations. There are five different fungi which attack SBA.

I have observed a couple of plants with 150+ per plant but they have been isolated. These larger populations have also been covered with ants. These ants may be keeping the ladybugs from doing their job. The ants milk the aphids much like cows and collect honeydew in return for protection.

Defoliation

There are a couple of insects that are feeding on soybean leaves this time of year. The most obvious is the Japanese beetle. Soybeans are a favorite food of these beetles and they can be found in small groups making lace out of leaves. Soybeans can take a lot of defoliation without any affect on yield. The threshold for JB in soybeans is 20% defoliation during pod fill. The leaf damage usually looks worse than it actually is. See the % leaf defoliation chart as a guide.



Other defoliators becoming more obvious in soybeans include grasshoppers, Mexican bean beetles, and loopers (smooth green caterpillars).



To simplify information, brand names of products may be used in this publication. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not named.

Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly. Recommendations herein are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Read the label before applying pesticide.

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Team Website: We will be updating the NWNy Team website periodically with observations on pests and cultural practices. Check us out at: <http://www.nwnyteam.org> then click on the links to: Nate's, Mike's or Nancy's pages.