

TAg NOTES

A Tactical Agricultural (TAg) publication of NWN Team Volume 2 Issue 2 May 5, 2003

Alfalfa:

As of April 29, we have not seen much Alfalfa Weevil (AW) adult egg laying. However, the alfalfa has made 6 to 8 inches of new growth.

It will come on strong from here forward.



Alfalfa Weevil Adult

Look for normal harvest times for first cutting, unless early



Alfalfa Weevil Larvae

May turns into a cold period. As it looks now, this should be ahead of AW damage and control

should be accomplished by timely hay crop silage harvest.

Dry hay growers need to pay close attention to AW as we get near the end of May. Last year there were significant economic levels in western NY. We cannot predict severity of this insect, but we can predict when it should peak based on heat units or Growing Degree Days. Watch the next issue of TAG Notes for where we stand on this predictive model.

Label Extended for PLH Control in Mixed Stands

Growers of mixed stands of alfalfa-grass or alfalfa-clover-grass will be glad to know that the special needs label for lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior®) has been extended. The request filed with US-EPA and NY-DEC by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell allows use of this product on mixed stands for the period from June 1 through August 31, 2003.

The specific use for this state label is for the control of potato leafhopper (PLH) in mixed stands. The existing federal and state labels allow use on clear alfalfa for a variety of insect pests. The legal application rates range from 1.92 to 3.2 fluid ounces per acre of the commercial product per cutting. Maximum application is 0.96 pints per season. Since PLH can be a season long problem, carefully observe application limits.

This product is toxic to honey bees, fish and aquatic organisms. Avoid applications that may risk injury to bees. Do not apply within 25 feet of streams or wetland areas. Lambda-cyhalothrin is a restricted use pesticide due to its toxicity to aquatic organisms.

Application certification is required for purchase and users must be certified or under direct supervision of a certified applicator.

There are a number of other use restrictions and requirements under this Section 18 label exemption. Read and follow the label restrictions in this regard. For a copy of the specifics, check out our web site, contact Nate or Mike or go to the Cornell Pest management Education Program Web site at: <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu>

Nitrogen Application Rates on Corn

Nitrogen fertilizer costs are nearly double what they were one year ago. In addition to the environmental reasons for not applying excessive rates, the economic reasons are more important than ever. Points to remember:

- Apply only rates that are likely to give an economic response.
- Give credit to rotational sources of nitrogen such as sod crops, cover crops, legumes (soybeans, alfalfa, clover, trefoil) plowed down or tilled in or fall-killed.

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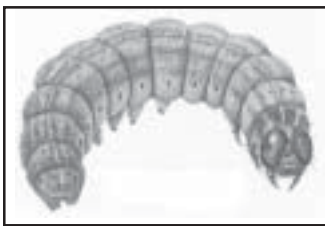
Con't from page 1.

- Know manure application rates and calculate available nitrogen from manure or other bio-solids. Even daily spread manure is worth at least 4 lbs/ac of available nitrogen per ton of manure. Residual values contribute additionally if manure is applied every year.
- Make use of Pre Sidedress Nitrogen Tests (PSNT) in early to mid June.

Last season was very dry and yields were reduced. Not all the available nitrogen was taken up by last season's harvested crop. Some may still be available this season, depending on the soil conditions. Use your best judgment to estimate this. Also, it will show up on PSNT if it is in the nitrate form at the time of testing. Residual nitrogen, regardless of the form, gives a cushion for optimum economic rates this season. For more specifics, contact Nate.

Corn:

Planting is in full swing as of April 29. Watch those early-planted fields for emergence. If you need training for seed corn maggot (SCM) or black cutworm (BCW) scouting, call Mike or Nate.

**Black Cutworm**

It is also the time to scout for early seedling weeds.

Winter Wheat**Weed Control:**

Some growers have made the comment that they were going to wait for more weeds to germinate before applying Harmony Extra. Do not wait. The important weeds to control are already out there. The wheat canopy will control the later germinating weeds. Also, as the canopy develops, it becomes more difficult to obtain good coverage of the weeds. Additionally, the weeds become much more difficult to control when they start to push up a flower stalk (mustard family weeds, corn chamomile or may daisy, etc.).

Nitrogen:

Yes, weather was difficult for most of April, but the Nitrogen should have gone on during that last week of April when the weather really broke open. Later applications of Nitrogen will not contribute to yield and not be efficiently used. If you still need to apply solution nitrogen, cut it with water 1:1 to reduce phyto-toxicity. Also reduce the rate to no more than 50 lbs/acre actual N. At this date you will not gain the full response and you increase the risk of phyto-toxicity.

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.

Small Grains Management Field Day at Musgrave Research Farm

**Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora NY
(Cayuga County)
Thursday June 5, 9:30a.m. – noon**

SPECIAL TOPIC**Wheat Market Channels:**

Where Does NY Grain Go and What Does It End Up As?

OTHER TOPICS:

- ↳ Wheat Production 101: A Primer for NY Wheat Growers (with Quiz)
- ↳ 2003 Crop Development/Management/Pest and Disease Overview
- ↳ Richland Wheat and other Cereal Varieties
- ↳ Is Roundup Ready Wheat in Our Future?
- ↳ Soilborne Virus Diseases and Their Management
- ↳ NY Grain Quality and Mycotoxin Survey (00 to 02)
- ↳ National Wheat and Barley Scab Research Initiative
- ↳ View Seed Treatment and Foliar Fungicide Research Plots
- ↳ Perspectives of Growers, Extension Educators, Consultants, Seedsmen, Agrichemical Co. Reps, and others

Contact Nate or Mike for more details or to ride pool.

To Contact Nate or Mike:

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Team Website: We will be updating the NWNy Team website weekly (or more often, if needed) 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.



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