

# Wisconsin Crop Manager

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### Drought 2012: USDA Changes Crop Insurance Rules for Cover Crop Harvesting in Spring 2013

Paul D. Mitchell, Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison/Extension

A recent UW Extension bulletin explained USDA crop insurance rules applying to farmers growing emergency forage or cover crops (see Crop Insurance Rules to Consider When Growing Emergency Forage or Cover Crops at <http://www.aae.wisc.edu/pdmitchell/extension.htm>). For farmers wanting to insure a grain crop in 2013, certain rules applied to the treatment of cover crops or emergency forage planted this summer/fall. The rule was that, if the forage/cover crop is harvested in the spring of 2013, then the following grain crop cannot be insured. This rule has been temporarily changed. Last week, USDA has decided to change that crop insurance rule for 2013 only, to help livestock farmers impacted by the drought to produce more forage.

In the spring of 2013, a farmer may harvest a forage/cover crop planted the previous summer/fall/winter, and then insure the following grain crop. By November 30, USDA will set a last-harvest date for each county, likely early May in Wisconsin, and the cover crop will also have to be terminated by a specific date. If a farmer harvests the cover crop after this last harvest date and/or does not terminate the forage/cover crop by the required date, then the following grain crop cannot be insured. Previously, a farmer could not harvest a forage/cover crop and insure the following grain crop. Note that a cover crop planted this summer/fall is not insurable.

At this time, this is a temporary rule change and is likely not permanent. Also, this temporary rule change pertains only to cover crops, not to perennial crops like alfalfa. Just as in previous years, a farmer will not be able to insure a grain crop planted into an alfalfa field after taking an early harvest of

alfalfa. This existing crop insurance rule will continue to be enforced in 2013.

Farmers interested in the details for their county should contact their crop insurance agent, but note that the USDA will announce the last harvest date and cover crop termination rules for each county on November 30, 2012. Farmers can use this information when making their plans for forage production and crop planting in 2013.

Finally, the USDA has also changed rules for the grazing or haying land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Interested farmers should contact their county FSA and/or NRCS office for details on key dates and allowable practices on land enrolled in these programs.

### For More Information

Contact your crop insurance agent or the author for more detailed questions. Also, see the UW Extension FYI Drought 2012 web page <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/> or contact your local UW Extension Agent for information on drought and emergency forage options.

### Vegetable Crop Update 8/30/12

The 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Vegetable Crop Update is now available. This issue contains information on late blight and late season management. [Click here to view this update.](#)

### Wisconsin Pest Bulletin 8/30/12

A new issue of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is now available. The Wisconsin Pest Bulletin provides up-to-date pest population estimates, pest distribution and development data, pest survey and inspection results, alerts to new pest finds in the state, and forecasts for Wisconsin's most damaging plant pests.

Issue No.20 of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is now available at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp>

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/pdf/08-30-12.pdf>

## UW Extension/Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC)

Brian Hudelson, Ann Joy, Amanda Zimmerman, Lindsay Wells, Andrew Pape, Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

The PDDC receives samples of many plant samples from around the state. The following diseases/disorders have been identified at the PDDC from August 17 through August 23, 2012:

PLANT/SAMPLE TYPE	DISEASE/DISORDER	PATHOGEN	COUNTY
<b>FIELD CROPS</b>			
Soybean	Brown Spot	<i>Septoria glycines</i>	Dodge, Eau Claire, St. Croix
	Frogeye Leaf Spot	<i>Cercospora sojina</i>	St. Croix
	Phyllosticta Leaf Spot	<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp.	St. Croix
	Soybean Cyst Nematode	<i>Heterodera glycines</i>	Fond du Lac, Outagamie
<b>FRUITS</b>			
Cranberry	Bitter Rot	<i>Colletotrichum gloeosporioides</i>	Jackson
	Early Rot	<i>Phyllosticta vacinii</i>	Wood
<b>VEGETABLES</b>			
Pepper	Fusarium Wilt	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Waushara
Pumpkin	Root/Crown Rot	<i>Pythium</i> sp., <i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp.	Green
Squash	Bacterial Leaf Spot	<i>Xanthomonas</i> sp.	Winneshiek (IA)
Tomato	Black Dot Root Rot	<i>Colletotrichum</i> sp.	Waukesha

For additional information on plant diseases and their control, visit the PDDC website at [pddc.wisc.edu](http://pddc.wisc.edu).

