

Wisconsin Crop Manager

Volume 20 Number 11 --- University of Wisconsin Crop Manager --- May 23, 2013

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Alfalfa Weevil Larval Populations and Leaf Tip Damage

Eileen Cullen, Extension Entomologist

Regular scouting for alfalfa weevil larvae should be underway at this time. Larvae are active and the [May 23 Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#) state survey reports that larval populations and leaf tip damage have exceeded economic levels in a few fields in southwestern WI alfalfa fields. The state survey is showing quite a bit of variability in weevil pressure. Most fields north of Dane County still have low numbers of larvae and are well below the threshold for alfalfa leaf tip feeding.

Regular scouting for larval feeding is critical at this time during first crop growth. Scouting should also continue after first crop harvest, particularly along strips of the field where windrows dried, for large larvae and adult feeding on in these areas.

To scout for alfalfa weevil, walk an “M” – shaped pattern in the alfalfa field and randomly pick 50 stems throughout the field. Examine each of the 50 stems for any amount of tip feeding from the alfalfa weevil larvae. Count the number of stems that have weevil feeding at the tip.

Control recommendations are to treat with insecticide or harvest early when 40% of the sampled stems have defoliation. That is 40% of the 50-stem sample with any defoliation (not 40% defoliation leaf loss on a particular stem).

If threshold is reached during first crop, the most economical recommendation is to harvest early as long as you are within 7 to 10 days of planned harvest. If you are farther from harvest, a treatment would be warranted.

Bryan Jensen, UW IPM, visits an alfalfa field to demonstrate and discuss alfalfa weevil scouting, light versus heavy feeding, and treatment recommendations. To view the videos click on the images below:

[Video 1] “Alfalfa Weevil Scouting in Alfalfa Fields”



[Video 2] “Alfalfa Weevil Scouting After First Cut”



Black Cutworm in Corn Video

Eileen Cullen, Extension Entomologist

Black cutworm moths arrived in Wisconsin a few weeks ago. The [Wisconsin Pest Bulletin reported the first significant capture of moths on May 6-7](#). The WI DATCP annual black cutworm trapping survey captured 252 moths in 30 traps by mid-May. This is a comparatively small black cutworm migration indicating low risk for widespread outbreaks than

what we have seen over the past two to three years. However, localized problems remain possible.

Black cutworm larvae are predicted to reach the cutting stage (4th instar) May 28 in southern Wisconsin, and beginning June 3 for central and northern Wisconsin. These predictions are based on 300 black cutworm degree days (base 50°F) after the first significant capture of moths in the respective regional areas.

Routine monitoring will be required from corn emergence until the five-leaf (V5) stage. Pay special attention to fields with low growing winter annual weeds or no-till residue during the moth flight over the last several weeks as these would be attractive sites for black cutworm moth egg-laying.

Dr. Eileen Cullen, field and forage crop Extension specialist, visits a corn field to demonstrate the process of black cutworm scouting, identification of early damage, and discuss black cutworm trapping, degree day predictions and rescue treatment thresholds.

To view this video click on the image below



Wisconsin Pest Bulletin 5/23/13

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. 4 of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is now available at:

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

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/pdf/05-23-13.pdf>

Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC)

Brian Hudelson, Ann Joy, and Andrew Pape, Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

The PDDC receives samples of many plant and soil samples from around the state. The following diseases/disorders have been identified at the PDDC from May 11, 2013 through May 17, 2013.

PLANT/SAMPLE TYPE	DISEASE/DISORDER	PATHOGEN	COUNTY
FRUIT CROPS			
Apple 'Gala'	SootyMold	<i>Fumago vagans</i>	Dane
Apple 'Golden Delicious'	Phomopsis Canker	<i>Phomopsis</i> sp.	Dane
VEGETABLES			
Tomato	Graywall	None	Vernon

For additional information on plant diseases and their control, visit the PDDC website at pddc.wisc.edu.

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