

Wisconsin Crop Manager

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Contents

Recycle your Empty Pesticide Containers — For Free!	14
Western Bean Cutworm Management	15
Diagnostics Through the UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic	15
Videos: Grain Crops Management in Low-Margin Years	16
UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update	17

Recycle your Empty Pesticide Containers — For Free!

Steve Tomasko—UW Pesticide Applicator Training Program

Every year farms, coops, lawn care, structural pest control operators and other businesses purchase and empty millions of plastic containers containing pesticides. A large percentage of those empty containers end up in landfills. But there's a better option: most containers can be recycled into other useful products, and for many businesses, recycling won't cost a dime.

The Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC)—an industry funded not-for-profit organization—funds and administers used pesticide container recycling programs across the United States. In 2015, ACRC through its contractors collected and recycled over 10 million pounds of used pesticide containers.

What Can You Recycle? Farms and companies can recycle #2 rigid high density polyethylene (HDPE) containers up to 55 gallons in size that held products used in the following markets:

Crop Protection: Containers that held EPA-registered crop protection products labeled for agricultural uses. Adjuvant, crop oil and surfactant containers also eligible for recycling.

Specialty Pesticides and Fertilizers: Containers that held EPA-registered products labeled for professional structural pest control, animal health, turf, nursery, greenhouse, forestry, and aquatics are eligible for recycling.

Not Acceptable: Containers that originally held consumer products, or home and garden pesticides cannot be recycled through this program.

Rinse, Rinse, Rinse!

You MUST rinse containers of all residues after use. Only dry, residue-free rinsed containers are accepted at col-



Above: Pesticide containers are recycled in many products including the corrugated agricultural drain pipe above. Other approved products include highway sign posts, agricultural fence posts, underground utility conduit, industrial pallets and more.

lection sites. You must triple-rinse your containers or use a jet spray to make sure they are clean and residue-free. Why is rinsing important?

- It's required by law.
- It gives you a return on your investment (you use all of the product in the container).
- Properly rinsed containers are classified as clean, solid waste.

How do you make sure your containers are properly rinsed? Read the product label and follow the procedures for rinsing containers (jugs and drums).

Where Do I Recycle my Containers?

The ACRC contracts out its recycling work to different contractors around the country. For the Midwest, that company is G. Phillips & Sons, LLC. You can schedule a pickup of your clean, empty containers by calling the company at 563-942-0391. They will pick up containers at both farms and other businesses.

G. Phillips & Sons company contact for Wisconsin, Stacey Bruinsma, says it's best to call and find out if there is a collection site on the route scheduled. If not, they can set up a location for you to meet their truck somewhere. Note that there is a minimum pick up of 1,500 pounds for free pickup. If under this weight, there is usually a fee associated for the cost of trucking/labor to pick up material.

Recycling your used pesticide containers helps to keep millions of pounds of plastic from simply taking up space in a landfill and being turned into useful products. What's not to like about that?

More Information:

Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC): www.acrecycle.org

Brochure on safely cleaning your containers for recycling: wiagribusiness.org/programs/cleaning_containers_for_recycling.pdf G. Phillips & Sons (contractor for recycling in the Midwest): <http://www.gpsagrecycle.com/>

Phone # to schedule a pickup: 563-942-0391

G. Phillips & Sons contact for Wisconsin: Stacey Bruinsma, sbruinsma@gphillipsandsons.com

Western Bean Cutworm Management

Bryan Jensen, UW Extension and IPM Program

Although this article may seem premature, the warm weather has gotten me thinking about those insects which could be favored by the abnormally high winter temperatures. Western bean cutworm (WBC) is one insect on that list. What also prompted this article is that several states in the Great Lakes Region and Ontario have reported high populations of WBC last year as well as WBC related performance issues with the Cry1F protein. Please consult the [Handy Bt Trait Table](#) authored by Michigan State University Extension Entomologist, Dr. Chris DiFonzo, for those trait families which incorporate the Cry1F protein.

WDATCP's [Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#) also reported a moderate increase in moths/trap last year after three consecutive years of low numbers. Equally important was their survey personnel indicated finding larval damage in both traited and non-traited corn. Although the incidence of larval damage seems to be lower in Wisconsin than the previously mentioned states it does make you wonder what will happen during the 2017 growing season, if anything.

To date, I have not heard of any western bean cutworm performance issues from those corn hybrids which incorporate the Vip3A protein (which also targets black cutworm, stalk borer, true armyworm but not European corn borer). However, it is still worth some effort to monitor those fields and err on the side of caution. For those fields without an above ground trait, which have a trait that does not target WBC and for those hybrids which include the Cry1F trait, field monitoring is highly suggested. Especially if you observed WBC damage in 2016. Plan to initiate scouting at approximately 1320 degree days (accumulated DD will be published in the Pest Survey Bulletin, subscribe). Please continue to watch future issues of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin and Wisconsin Crop Manager for updates during the growing season. Please feel free to offer your comments and/or observations to me via [email](#).

Diagnostics Through the UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

Brian Hudelson, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

The UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) provides unbiased, research-based plant disease identification and control recommendations for agricultural producers and businesses, horticultural producers and businesses, and homeowners throughout Wisconsin. If you suspect that you have a plant disease problem, you can submit a sample either through your county UW-Extension office (see <http://www.uwex.edu/> for the location nearest you) or directly to the clinic (see <https://pddc.wisc.edu/sample-collection-and-submission/> for collection details, submission details and forms). Fees for PDDC services (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/services-fees/>) are typically \$20-25, although additional charges may apply depending on the sample type and tests requested.

Diseases of specific interest to field, forage, fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop producers for which the PDDC provides testing include (but are not limited to):

- Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) of soybean;
- Tar spot and Goss' wilt of corn;
- Aphanomyces seedling blight/root rot (including race testing of soil) of alfalfa;
- Fire blight of apple and pear;
- Fruit rot and vine dieback of cranberry;
- Late blight of potato and tomato (testing provided free-of-charge as a public service);
- Black leg/tuber soft rot (Dickeya and Pectobacterium) of potato;
- Downy mildew of cucurbits;
- Root rot (soil testing) of peas;
- Downy mildew and virus diseases of hop.

The PDDC partners with PJ Liesch at the UW-Madison/Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab (<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/>) who provides unbiased and research-based insect identifications and control recommendations (at no charge). The PDDC also partners with

Ann MacGuidwin at the UW Nematode Diagnostic Lab (<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/uw-nematode-diagnostic-lab/>) who provides a wide range of unbiased and research-based plant nematode testing (e.g., corn nematode testing) and control recommendations (for \$35). The UW Nematode Diagnostic Lab also provides SCN race testing of samples that test positive for SCN through the PDDC. The PDDC works closely with other UW-Madison/Extension plant disease experts including UW-Madison/Extension state field and forage crop pathologist Damon Smith (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/fieldcroppathology/>), UW-Madison/Extension state fruit crop pathologist Patricia McManus (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/users/psm>) and UW-Madison/Extension state vegetable crop pathologist Amanda Gevens (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>).

If you have questions about submitting a sample or clinic fees, or would just like to discuss disease issues that you are seeing, feel free to contact PDDC Director Brian Hudelson (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>) at (608) 262-2863 or pddc@wisc.edu.

Videos: Grain Crops Management in Low-Margin Years

We have recorded a series of talks, "Grain Management in Low-Margin Years", that address how to best handle different aspects of crop production during low-margin years. These were presented by UWEX state specialists last month throughout Wisconsin at meeting hosted by UW Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agents.

You can watch a specific video, or [view the full playlist on the UWIPM YouTube channel](#). There is a table of contents below each video on YouTube with quick links to jump to key parts in longer videos.

[Soybean Inputs that Deliver the Highest ROI in a Low-Margin Year](#) – Shawn Conley, UW Agronomy, Soybean and Small Grains Specialist (40 min)

[Practical Weed Management for Low-Margin Years](#) – Dan Smith, UW NPM, Southwest Regional Specialist (14 min)

[Fundamental Soil Fertility Strategies for Success](#) – Carrie Laboski, UW Soil Science, Soil Fertility/Nutrient Management Specialist (37 min)

[How to Survive and Thrive on Current Corn Price Projections](#) – Joe Lauer, UW Agronomy, Corn Specialist (41 min)



[Low Grain Prices = Smart Disease Management Decisions](#)
– Damon Smith, UW Plant Pathology, Field Crops Pathology Specialist (29 min)

[Managing Insects Economically Using Conventional Hybrids and Thresholds](#) – Bryan Jensen, UW Entomology, Field Crops Entomology Specialist (38 min)

[Machinery/Technology Management](#) and [Tillage Considerations to Reduce Operational Costs](#) – Francisco Arriaga, UW Soil Science, Soil Science Specialist and Brian Luck, UW Biological System Engineering, Machinery Specialist (16 & 10 min)

[Partial Budget Analysis: A Practical Tool for Low Margin Years](#) – Paul Mitchell, UW Ag & Applied Econ, Cropping Systems Specialist (31 min)

Here is a summary publication that was handed out at the meetings. [“A4137 – Grain Management Considerations in Low-Margin Years”](#) available online for download.

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UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update

Brian Hudelson, Sean Toporek, Jake Kurczewski and Ann Joy

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 February 18, 2016 through February 24, 2016.

Plant/Sample Type, Disease/Disorder, Pathogen, County

Fruit Crops

Apricot, [Bacterial Canker](#), *Pseudomonas syringae*, Dane

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