

# Wisconsin Crop Manager

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## 2011 Pest Management Update Meetings

Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist

We are pleased to announce the schedule and topics for the 2011 Pest Management Update Meetings. We will once again be visiting eight locations throughout Wisconsin in early November. See the table below for the dates at specific locations. Registration details are listed at the top of the schedule. **Please pre-register** with the host agent to ensure we have ample food for lunch. It is not possible for host agents to switch attendees and meal counts between locations on the day of the meeting as each location in the series is a separate event for registration and local arrangements purposes. An additional "walk-in" fee for those who have not pre-registered will be accessed.

At the meeting presenters will review the 2011 crop year, provide necessary updates on new information/resources, and forecast issues for next year. The speakers will be Mark Renz, weed scientist, perennial cropping systems; Vince Davis, weed scientist, annual cropping systems; Eileen Cullen, field crop entomologist; and Paul Esker, field crop plant pathologist.

We hope to see you this fall.

2011 Pest Management Update Topics will cover:

**Weed Management:** Annual Crops: 1) herbicide updates; 2) glyphosate resistance in Wisconsin update; 3) control strategies for giant ragweed; Perennial Crops: 4) weed management decisions in alfalfa; 5) costs of weeds in pastures; 6) costs of herbicide applications to legumes in pastures; 7) invasive species rule update; 8) summary of switchgrass establishment treatments and yield potential.

**Insect Management:** 1) black cutworm in corn; 2) armyworm in corn and wheat; 3) slug management for corn and soybean; 4) spider mites in soybeans; 5) Japanese beetles in corn and

soybeans; 6) Bt corn insect traits and refuge requirements updates.

**Disease Management:** 1) Biology and management of Goss's wilt; 2) considerations for using fungicides and insecticides in alfalfa; 3) the economics of using soybean seed treatments; 4) What have we learned from linking genetics and disease for small grains management?

**\*The schedule is attached at the end of this issue of the PDF print version of The Wisconsin Crop Manager\***

## Harvesting alfalfa after frost

Dan Undersander, Forage Agronomist, University of Wisconsin

Regarding questions about frost on alfalfa the following pieces of information should be kept in mind:

- Has the alfalfa really frozen? – this requires 4 or more hours at 24 degrees or less. Often the top leaf tips are frozen but not the crown.
- Alfalfa does not accumulate any toxic compounds after frost, unlike sorghums. Therefore it can be cut immediately after frost or any time later.
- The major consideration is how much the alfalfa will regrow. Alfalfa must either be cut early enough in the fall to regrow and replenish root carbohydrates and proteins or so late that the alfalfa does not regrow or use any root carbohydrates if we want good winter survival and rapid greening for good yield next.

It is important to remember that we do not need to wait for a killing frost to take the last cutting. We must only wait until it is so cool that little or no regrowth will occur.

## Vegetable Crop Updates Now Available

Vegetable Crop update 23 and 24 are now posted under the "Veg Crop Updates" page or by following this link <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/WCMNews/VegCropUpdate/tabid/115/Default.aspx>.

The 23th issue includes:

Potato and Vegetable Crop Updates  
Potato Updates from Seed Certification Program  
Potato Late Blight Updates  
Cucurbit Downy Mildew Updates

The 24st issue includes:

## Fall is a great time to manage pasture weeds

Mark Renz Extension Weed Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

As fall is officially here, consider managing common pasture weeds before the snow arrives. Results have shown that biennial and perennial weeds that are found in Wisconsin's pastures (e.g. plumeless thistle, burdock, Canada thistle) are effectively controlled with fall herbicide applications. While these species can be managed at several time of the year, fall offers a great time to treat these species because

1. Results are as good if not better than spring or summer applications.
2. Control will eliminate forage loss from competition with these weeds the following year.
3. Control will prevent loss of forage utilization by animals near spiny/thorny weed species.
4. Applications can be made late into the fall (throughout October) after corn and soybean harvest

Several herbicides are effective at managing pasture weeds, so please consult the following resources for specific recommendations:

1. Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops (A3646) Forage and Pasture Weed Management Section (pp. 169-175):  
<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3646.pdf>
2. Thistles in Pastures and Beyond: Biology and Management:  
(<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=jSiHqZ%2bqwoA%3d&tabid=116&mid=678>).
3. Brush Management in Wisconsin:  
<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=v6%2f6EliGw50%3d&tabid=116&mid=678>

If you are concerned about how late in the fall you can apply, results are species and method of application specific. While foliar treatments on brush lose effectiveness as the leaves start to change colors, herbaceous weeds can be treated much later into the season. Results will be herbicide specific so please check the label, but as long as leaves are actively growing, we have seen good results with common pasture herbicides. If some frost injury is visible on leaves, wait several days to determine if the plants will outgrow this injury before making applications. Even with significant injury (November application), we have observed excellent control of Canada thistle with products that contain aminopyralid (Milestone & Forefront) that were similar to September and October application timings. For fall and winter brush suppression, we recommend basal bark or cut stump treatments, as these can be applied anytime of the year and

remain effective. Check the label as some products have restrictions against application in deep snow, or when heavy sap flow is occurring in the spring. If you don't wish to use herbicides, and have biennial weeds (e.g. burdock, plumeless thistle), research has found that leaving at least 6 inches of regrowth after the last harvest in the fall will reduce the number of seedlings that germinate the following spring. While this isn't effective on perennial weeds, it can reduce the number of biennial weeds and allow for improved forage production and utilization. While these suggestions may add an additional work, the benefits will be reaped the following growing year.



## 2011 Wisconsin Pest Management Update Meetings

The schedule for the Wisconsin Pest Management Update meeting series is listed below. Presentations will include pest management and biology information for Wisconsin field and forage crops. Speakers will include Mark Renz and Vince Davis, weed scientists, Eileen Cullen, entomologist, and Paul Esker, plant pathologist.

All meetings will start with check-in registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. Presentations start promptly at 10 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Four hours of Certified Crop Advisor CEU credits in pest management are requested for each session. The \$35 registration fee per participant includes a noon meal and information packet. Extra packets of materials can be purchased for \$20 each.

**Make your reservation with host agent one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.**

DATE	LOCATION	HOST AGENT
Monday November 7	<b><u>Marshfield</u></b> Marshfield Ag Research Station 1 mile north of Hwy 10 on Hwy 13 (old Cty A), east on A, then immediate right onto Yellowstone Drive	<b>Matt Lippert</b> Wood County Extension P.O. Box 8095 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 715-421-8440
Tuesday November 8	<b><u>Lake Hallie/Chippewa Falls</u></b> Eagles Club (2588 Hallie Road) Business Hwy 53 south of Hwy 29 Lake Hallie: between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls (across from Farm & Fleet)	<b>Jerry Clark</b> Chippewa County Extension 711 N. Bridge Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 (715) 726-7950
Wednesday November 9	<b><u>Sparta</u></b> Jake's Northwoods Northeast edge of Sparta on Hwy 21	<b>Bill Halfman</b> Monroe County Extension 14345 County Hwy B Sparta, WI 54656 (608) 269-8722
Thursday November 10	<b><u>Arlington</u></b> Public Events Building Turn west at sign for Ag Research Station on Hwy 51, about 2 miles north of DeForest	<b>Heidi Johnson</b> Jefferson County Extension 864 Collins Rd. Jefferson WI 53549 (920) 674-7295
Monday November 14	<b><u>Fond du Lac</u></b> Rm 113 University Center, UW-Fond du Lac Hwy 41, exit east on Hwy 23 for 3 miles, north on University Drive, continue right when entering campus	<b>Mike Rankin</b> Fond du Lac County Extension 227 Admin/Extension Bldg. 400 University Dr. Fond du Lac, WI 54935 (920) 929-3170
Tuesday November 15	<b><u>Green Bay</u></b> Rock Garden (Comfort Suites Hotel) Hwy 41, take Hwy 29 (Shawano) exit, east to frontage road and north one block	<b>Mark Hagedorn</b> Ag & Extension Service Center 1150 Bellevue St Green Bay, WI 54302 (920) 391-4612
Wednesday November 16	<b><u>Belmont</u></b> Baymont Inn North of Hwy 151 at exit 26	<b>Ted Bay</b> Grant County Extension P.O. Box 31 Lancaster, WI 53813 (608) 723-2125
Thursday November 17	<b><u>Janesville</u></b> Best Western Hwy 26 just north of I-90 at Janesville	<b>Jim Stute</b> Rock County Extension 51 S. Main Street Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 757-5696