



WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Vegetable Crops

Vegetable Crop Insects - *Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist*; jwhalen@udel.edu

Melons

Continue to scout all melons for aphids, cucumber beetles, and spider mites. With the recent hot weather, be sure to watch for an increase in spider mite activity. The threshold for mites is 20-30% infested crowns with 1-2 mites per leaf. Acramite, Agri-Mek, bifenthrin, Danitol, Oberon, Portal and Zeal are labeled on melons for mite control.

Peppers

As soon as the first flowers can be found, be sure to consider a corn borer treatment. Depending on local corn borer trap catches, sprays should be applied on a 7 to 10-day schedule once pepper fruit is $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Be sure to check local moth catches in your area by calling the Crop Pest Hotline (instate: 800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851) or visiting our website at (<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestblt.html>). You will also need to consider a treatment for pepper maggot. Be sure to watch for beet armyworm since the first moths have been detected in pheromone traps and this insect can quickly cause defoliation.

Potatoes

Continue to scout fields for Colorado potato beetle (CPB), corn borers (ECB) and leafhoppers. We have seen an increase in leafhopper

populations and low levels of aphids have also been found. Controls will be needed for green peach aphids if you find 2 aphids per leaf during bloom and 4 aphids per leaf post bloom. This threshold increases to 10 per leaf at 2 weeks from vine death/kill. If melon aphids are found, the threshold should be reduced by half.

Snap Beans

Continue to sample all seedling stage fields for leafhopper and thrips activity. As a general guideline, once corn borer catches reach 2 per night, fresh market and processing snap beans in the bud to pin stages should be sprayed for corn borer. Sprays will be needed at the bud and pin stages on processing beans. Acephate can be used at the bud and pin stages on processing beans but remember it has a 14 day wait until harvest. Additional sprays may be needed after the pin spray on processing beans. Since trap catches can change quickly, be sure to check our website for the most recent trap catches and information on how to use this information to make a treatment decision in processing snap beans after bloom

(<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestblt.html>) and

(<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/thresh/snapbeanecbthresh.html>). Once pins are present on fresh market snap beans and corn borer trap catches are above 2 per night, a 7 to 10-day schedule should be maintained for corn borer control.

Sweet Corn

Continue to sample all fields from the whorl through pre-tassel stage for corn borers and corn

earworms. Both species can be found feeding in whorls and tassels of sweet corn. A treatment should be applied if 15% of the plants are infested with larvae. The first silk sprays will be needed for corn earworm as soon as ear shanks are visible. Be sure to check both blacklight and pheromone trap catches since the spray schedules can quickly change. Trap catches are generally updated on Tuesday and Friday mornings (<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latest/blt.html> and <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/thresh/silksp/laythresh.html>). You can also call the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851). You will also need to scout for fall armyworm larvae in whorl stage sweet corn. A treatment should be considered when 12-15% of the plants are infested. Since fall armyworm feeds deep in the whorls, sprays should be directed into the whorls and multiple applications are often needed to achieve control.

Insecticide Update: Endosulfan (Thionex) -
Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist;
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This news release was received as an EPA Pesticide Program Update from EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs on June 10, 2010.

“EPA Moves to Terminate All Uses of Insecticide Endosulfan to Protect Health of Farmworkers and Wildlife

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking action to end all uses of the insecticide endosulfan in the United States. Endosulfan, which is used on vegetables, fruits, and cotton, can pose unacceptable neurological and reproductive risks to farmworkers and wildlife and can persist in the environment.

“New data generated in response to the agency's 2002 decision have shown that risks faced by workers are greater than previously known. EPA also finds that there are risks above the agency's level of concern to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, as well as to birds and mammals that consume aquatic prey which have ingested

endosulfan. Farmworkers can be exposed to endosulfan through inhalation and contact with the skin. Endosulfan is used on a very small percentage of the U.S. food supply and does not present a risk to human health from dietary exposure.

“Makhteshim Agan of North America, the manufacturer of endosulfan, is in discussions with EPA to voluntarily terminate all endosulfan uses. EPA is currently working out the details of the decision that will eliminate all endosulfan uses, while incorporating consideration of the needs for growers to timely move to lower-risk pest control practices.

“Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA must consider endosulfan's risks and benefits. While EPA implemented various restrictions in a 2002 re-registration decision, EPA's phaseout is based on new data and scientific peer review, which have improved EPA's assessment of the ecological and worker risks from endosulfan. EPA's 2010 revised ecological risk assessment reflects a comprehensive review of all available exposure and ecological effects information for endosulfan, including independent external peer-reviewed recommendations made by the endosulfan Scientific Advisory Panel.

“Endosulfan, an organochlorine insecticide first registered in the 1950s, also is used on ornamental shrubs, trees, and herbaceous plants. It has no residential uses.”

For more information, you can go to the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/endosulfan/endosulfan-cancl-fs.html>

Magnesium Deficiencies in Vegetables -
Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

I have recently looked at a field of pickling cucumbers with areas that showed symptoms of magnesium deficiency. Magnesium (Mg) is considered a secondary macroelement and is essential for plant growth. It is a component of chlorophyll, the green pigment that captures

light energy in photosynthesis. The chlorophyll molecule has a porphyrin ring with a magnesium atom at the center. Therefore, deficiencies of magnesium will result in reduced chlorophyll production and yellowing of plants.

In most vegetable crops, magnesium deficiency commonly first appears as yellow or white areas between the veins of older leaves. As the deficiency progresses, the yellowed areas may turn into dead spots. Older leaves in plants may also have a purple or bronze appearance and leaf tips and margins may brown and die. The plants may be stunted and have an overall yellow appearance. Symptoms are most severe on older leaves because magnesium is a mobile element in plants and will be scavenged from older leaves and transported to new growth.

In Delaware, magnesium deficiencies are most commonly found in sandy, acid soils with a pH below 5.4. Therefore, magnesium deficiencies are commonly not field wide, but will be in areas of a field with depressed pH such as “sand hills” that have been excessively leached. Often a whole field pH will be in an acceptable range so it is critical to check the soil pH in affected areas. Tissue tests should be considered to confirm the magnesium deficiency.

Excessive levels of potassium can also induce magnesium deficiency where available magnesium levels are low to moderate to begin with.

Commonly, magnesium is applied to soils with dolomitic limestone (Hi-Mag lime). Sulfate of potash and magnesia (K-Mag, Sul-Po-Mag) is a naturally mined mineral deposit that can also be applied to add magnesium to soils. Other magnesium sources include magnesium sulfate (same as Epsom Salts), magnesium oxide (basic slag), and magnesium chloride.

To correct a deficiency in growing vegetables, soluble magnesium sources should be used. Foliar applications are effective but must be applied in a dilute solution to avoid salt injury. Spray 20 lbs of a soluble magnesium source (20 lbs of magnesium sulfate for example) in 100 gallons of water per acre (10 lbs in 50 gallons or 5 lbs in 25 gallons). Dry broadcasts of 15-25 lbs of actual magnesium per acre, irrigated in, or

fertigation with similar amounts from soluble sources will also be effective. Sidedress applications may also be effective at 15-20 lbs of actual magnesium per acre. For drip irrigated vegetables, soluble magnesium fertilizers can be applied through the drip system.

Magnesium deficiencies corrected early enough in the growing season will often result in little yield loss. However, it is critical to target affected fields with corrective liming for future crops in the rotation. Variable rate liming may be considered and is recommended where there is excessive variability in pH in a field.

If pH is below 5.2 and vegetables are still small, dolomitic limestone may be broadcast over the top and cultivated in to correct pH related problems. This should be coupled with a foliar magnesium application to more quickly address the magnesium deficiency.

In vine crops, low pH may also be a causal factor for manganese toxicities and you may see both magnesium deficiency and manganese toxicity in the same field. Manganese toxicity symptoms in melons will initially show up as small yellow spots on upper leaf surfaces. On lower leaf surfaces you will see dead spots with water soaked rings around these dead spots. As the deficiency worsens, these leaf areas will turn brown and die. In watermelons, manganese toxicity will show up as black speckling on the lower leaf surfaces and extensive vein browning. However, manganese toxicity is not common in watermelon. For a review of manganese toxicity in cantaloupes refer to an article by Jerry Brust in the WCU archives [Volume 14, Issue 15, July 7, 2006](#).

Cucurbit Downy Mildew Update - Bob Mulrooney, *Extension Plant Pathologist*; bobmul@udel.edu

There are two new reports of cucurbit downy mildew in locations north of us in Hamilton, Ontario and Holmes County, Ohio. These sites will be threatening eastern Ohio and western PA in the next few days. There have also been two more counties in NC infected. Growers need to stay alert. Delmarva is at minimal risk at the

present time. Be sure to check the CDM ipm PIPE Website for more info <http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/>.

Watch for Phytophthora Fruit Rot on Cucurbits - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Be on the lookout for Phytophthora fruit rot on cucurbits, especially watermelon. After last seasons' losses from Phytophthora fruit rot due to the excessive rainfall in 2009, growers should be thinking about the possibility of fruit rot this season. We are at risk for Phytophthora blight if the scattered thunder storms, along with the frog-strangling rains that we can get, occur like they did Tuesday evening. Phytophthora blight is a tough disease to control, but if you have cucurbits in fields that had fruit rot last season you are at very high risk if the soil stays saturated even for a few hours. This is a fungus that moves in water and the spores will move where water goes. (Spores will not move more than a few feet in the air.) Some additional cultural controls would be rotation (5 years or more) for watermelons, sub-soiling between the rows before they close to help water drain faster and to keep the fruit out of standing water. Fungicides will only suppress the disease and those that have the best activity are the following: Presidio, Revus, Ranman plus a surfactant (see label), Forum, Gavel and Tanos. Depending on the test, the season, and the location, the efficacy of these fungicides varies. However, proper application of these products will result in better yields than in untreated fields. Remember that Revus and Forum are Group 40 fungicides and have the same mode of action, so they should not be applied in succession. All of these fungicides, except Ranman, should be tank mixed with fixed copper if the label allows. Fixed copper is not compatible with Ranman plus the surfactant. Good coverage of fruit is very important.

On pickling cucumbers, fruit rot fungicides should be applied soon after flowering when the fruit are one inch long and repeated once they are three inches long for the best results. Data from Michigan State indicate that Presidio, Revus, Gavel, Forum (Acrobat), and Ranman provide suppression of fruit rot. Remember that

Revus and Forum are Group 40 fungicides and have the same mode of action, so they should not be applied in succession.

Powdery Mildew on Cucurbits - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Continue to scout cucurbits for powdery mildew. Symptoms typically begin on older, lower leaves and can spread rapidly under dry, humid conditions. Control of powdery mildew begins with regular scouting for symptoms and weekly fungicide applications. Begin a fungicide program when one lesion is found on the underside of 45 leaves. For control of cucurbit powdery mildew in:

Pumpkin and Winter Squash:

Alternate:

Rally (myclobutanil, 3) at 5.0 oz 40WSP/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

Procure (triflumizole, 3) at 4.0 to 8.0 oz 50WS/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

Folicur (tebuconazole, 3) at 4.0 to 6.0 fl. oz 3.6F/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

With one of the following:

Micronized Wettable Sulfur (M2) at 4.0 lb 80W/A (Sulfur may injure plants especially at high temperatures. Certain varieties can be more sensitive. Consult label for precautions.)

or

chlorothalonil *plus* Pristine (pyraclostrobin + boscalid, 11 + 7) at 12.5 to 18.5 oz 38WG/A

or

Quintec (quinoxifen, 13) at 6.0 oz 2.08F/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

When Powdery mildew has become well established in the mid- to late part of the season, only apply protectant fungicides such as chlorothalonil or sulfur.

Summer Squash and Cucumber:

Alternate:

Rally (myclobutanil, 3) at 5.0 oz 40WSP/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

Procure (triflumizole, 3) at 4.0 to 8.0 oz 50WS/A

plus chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A
or
Folicur (tebuconazole, 3) at 4.0 to 6.0 fl. oz
3.6F/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

With a tank mix containing:
chlorothalonil *plus* Pristine (pyraclostrobin + boscalid, 11 + 7) at 12.5 to 18.5 oz 38WG/A

Muskmelon and Watermelon:

Alternate:

Rally (myclobutanil, 3) at 5.0 oz 40WSP/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

Procure (triflumizole, 3) at 4.0 to 8.0 oz 50WS/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

Folicur (tebuconazole, 3) at 4.0 to 6.0 fl. oz
3.6F/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

With a tank mix containing:

Quintec (quinoxifen, 13) at 6.0 oz 2.08F/A *plus* chlorothalonil at 2.0 to 3.0 pt 6F/A

or

chlorothalonil *plus* Pristine (pyraclostrobin + boscalid, 11 + 7) at 12.5 to 18.5 oz 38WG/A

For more information on control of powdery mildew of cucurbits please see the [2010 Delaware Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide](#).

Potato and Tomato Late Blight Update - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Late blight on tomatoes was found on Long Island in a home vegetable garden this past weekend. There have been no reports of late blight in DE, NJ or eastern shore VA to date. The high temperatures this week (above 90° F) are not favorable for late blight.

Watermelon Gummy Stem Blight Fungicide Programs in 2010 - Kate Everts, Vegetable Pathologist, University of Delaware and University of Maryland; keverts@umd.edu

Our weather has not been highly conducive to gummy stem blight or anthracnose in the last two weeks. Therefore, under low disease

pressure a good strategy is to apply Bravo on a 7-day schedule. Alternatively, our trials over many years have demonstrated that under low disease pressure the spray intervals can be lengthened. Following the weather forecaster 'MELCAST' <http://mdvegdissease.umd.edu/forecasting/index.cfm> can help determine the safe interval that can be used without the likelihood of risking disease increases.

There are several fungicides available for gummy stem blight management. Although several products are available, the usefulness of some of these products is limited by resistance development in the pathogen. On Delmarva we have confirmed the presence of resistance in *Didymella bryoniae*, the pathogen, to fungicides in the FRAC code group 11 (strobilurins, including Quadris and Cabrio) and FRAC code 3 (demethylation inhibitors or DMIs, including Topsin M). Resistance to Pristine exists in Georgia, and therefore Pristine is not recommended in that state. We have not yet detected resistance to Pristine here. However many of our transplants are grown in the south and it would not be surprising to find that resistance has been introduced here.

The following are fungicide programs that performed well in trials in Maryland and other areas in the southeast US in 2009:

- Switch 14 fl oz/A (1 day PHI; FRAC codes 9 and 12) alternated with Bravo
- Folicur 8 fl oz/A (7 day PHI; FRAC code 3) alternated with Bravo
- Inspire Super at 20 oz/A (7 day PHI) alternated with Bravo (Inspire Super is a new product that has two active ingredients. Although one component is in the FRAC code 3 group - Inspire Super performed very well in 2009.)
- Pristine 12.5-18.5 oz/A (0 day PHI; FRAC codes 11 and 7) alternated with Bravo (Pristine continues to perform very well in my trials -it usually ranks at the top, although it is not always significantly better than other products. However, because it performs very poorly in Georgia trials and because of the potential for resistance development, use caution and

monitor disease levels carefully, if you choose to use Pristine.)

Watermelon is susceptible to other diseases as well. Scout for downy mildew, Phytophthora fruit rot and powdery mildew. The presence of these diseases will require additional fungicide applications with products with different modes of action.

Blossom End Rot in Tomatoes - Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland; jbrust@umd.edu

This is just a quick reminder that we are in very dry conditions right now and tomato plants are putting on large fruit at the same time they are flowering profusely. Everyone knows that blossom end rot is caused by too little calcium in the fruit while it is developing, usually from the time of flowering until it is the size of a quarter. Most of the blossom end rot I have seen in tomato is due to too little water supplied to tomatoes during dry, very hot periods like we are having now. Some varieties are much more sensitive to dry conditions and will show severe blossom end rot symptoms while other varieties do not. Your tomato plants are going to need more water than you may be used to giving them over the next few weeks if conditions remain hot and dry.



Blossom end rot on tomato fruit

Tomato Pith Necrosis Found in Maryland - Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland; jbrust@umd.edu and Karen Rane, Director UMD Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

In the last few days we have received tomato samples that have the same unusual disease called Tomato pith necrosis. Tomato pith necrosis is caused by the soilborne bacterium *Pseudomonas corrugata*. Pith necrosis has occurred infrequently in Maryland over the past few decades. The disease usually is found in early planted tomatoes when night temperatures are cool, but the humidity is high, and plants are growing too rapidly because of excessive nitrogen application. Once night temperatures warm up, the plants usually outgrow the problem. We have had an early spring, which has allowed many growers to plant their crops 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. We then had cool nights in May and at times high humidity. In the field, diseased plants occur randomly with initial symptoms often being seen as the first fruit clusters reach the mature green stage. Symptoms include chlorosis (yellowing) of young leaves and shoots, followed by wilting of the infected shoots in the upper part of the plant canopy (Fig. 1). This wilting is usually associated with internal necrosis at the base of the stem. Black streaking may be apparent on the surface of the main stem, which often splits (Fig. 2). When the stem is cut open along its length the pith will be discolored, and may have hollow areas (Fig. 3). There is often prolific growth of adventitious roots in the stems with discolored pith, and the stems may appear swollen.

There is not much that can be done for control of pith necrosis. The best practice is prevention by avoiding the use of excessive amounts of nitrogen in tomato, especially early in the season when nights are still cool. Using plant activators such as acibenzolar-S-methyl (Actigard) have resulted in 55% disease reductions, but applications must be started before symptoms appear. There is some evidence that the pathogen may be seedborne, but more research is needed on the epidemiology and management of this disease.



B. Butler

Figure 1. Whole plant symptoms of tomato pith necrosis



K. Rane

Figure 2. Splitting of the main stem and darkened pith caused by tomato pith necrosis



K. Rane

Figure 3. Discolored pith and prolific adventitious root growth cause by tomato pith necrosis

Agronomic Crops

Agronomic Crop Insects - Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; jwhalen@udel.edu

Alfalfa

Continue to sample for potato leafhoppers on a weekly basis. Once plants are yellow, yield loss has already occurred. The treatment thresholds are 20 per 100 sweeps on alfalfa 3 inches or less in height, 50 per 100 sweeps in 4-6 inch tall alfalfa and 100 per 100 sweeps in 7-11 inch tall alfalfa.

Field Corn

In recent years, we have seen an increase in stinkbug damage to developing corn ears, especially when fields are adjacent to small grain fields. We are continuing to survey fields to evaluate the extent of the damage this season. Information from the University of Georgia, where they have experienced problems, indicates that:

(a) Corn is most susceptible to stink bug injury during ear formation before tasseling.

(b) Bugs will feed through the sheath, causing a dead spot on the ear. As the ear expands it becomes distorted and curves, usually outward.

(c) Feeding during silking and pollen shed also will kill kernels on the ear. Once the ear has elongated, stink bug feeding during the blister and milk stages blasts individual kernels usually causing them to abort.

(d) Although we have not developed thresholds for our area, the following thresholds are used in the South : 25% infested plants (1 bug per 4 plants) as a threshold during ear elongation to pollen shed and 50% infested plants (1 bug per 2 plants) during the later part of pollen shed and blister/milk stage.

(e) Initially stink bugs tend to be more prevalent on the field edge, so only a perimeter spray may be needed.

Soybeans

Be sure to sample fields in the seedling stage for bean leaf beetles, grasshoppers and spider mites. Grasshopper populations are starting to increase, especially in no-till fields. As barley and wheat are harvested and soybeans are planted, these fields will be susceptible to attack and grasshopper feeding can often cause stand loss. If stand reductions are occurring from plant emergence to the second trifoliolate, a treatment should be applied. Although no precise thresholds are available, a treatment may be needed if you find one grasshopper per sweep and 30% defoliation from plant emergence through the pre-bloom stage. Numerous products are labeled for grasshopper control including a number of pyrethroids, dimethoate, Lorsban, Orthene 97 and Sevin XLR. *Be sure to check all labels carefully before combining insecticides and herbicides since there are a number of restrictions on the labels.*

Continue to watch carefully for spider mites. We are finding fields with economic levels of mites, both on field edges and in some cases in field interiors - so be sure to scout the entire field to make a treatment decision. Labeled materials include dimethoate, Lorsban, Hero (zeta-cypermethrin + bifenthrin) as well as a number of stand alone bifenthrin products (*not all may be labeled so be sure to check the label*). All of these products need to be applied before mites explode. Be sure to read the labels for use rates and restrictions - there is a limit on the number of applications as well as the time

between applications on all of the materials labeled for spider mite control.

Soybean Rust Update - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Soybean rust was confirmed June 10, in the US for the first time this season on soybean in Hidalgo County, Texas. Rust has also been confirmed on soybean in the neighboring Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Rust was just detected in Mobile AL on kudzu on June 23. Conditions for soybean rust are still very unfavorable in the Gulf States. If you are interested in the movement of soybean rust consult the ipm PIPE website at <http://sbrusa.net>.

Manganese Applications With Postemergence Glyphosate - Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu

Roundup Ready soybeans may require a postemergence application of glyphosate and a manganese application about the same time. These glyphosate products can be tankmixed with manganese with some precautions. The manganese products can bind with glyphosate in the spray tank and reduce glyphosate's effectiveness. The form of manganese has an impact. Manganese chelated with EDTA does not appear to affect the performance of glyphosate, but other forms of manganese do. The addition of ammonium sulfate can overcome the problem. Thus, when tankmixing glyphosate with manganese, use an EDTA form of manganese or add ammonium sulfate to overcome the reduced weed control. When using ammonium sulfate be sure to add the ammonium sulfate to the tank first and add the glyphosate last.

Roundup Ready in Double-Crop Soybeans - Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu

Planting of soybeans following small grains is under way. Remember to start off clean with a burndown. Trying to time the glyphosate

application to provide both “burn-down” and in-crop weed control often does not work well. Also, given how many weeds are in many of the wheat fields, a knockdown will be needed in most situations. Timing of in-crop application of Roundup Ultra or Touchdown is not as critical as with full-season soybeans. Options include glyphosate, Ignite 280, or Gramoxone Inteon. Depending on the weeds present, additional herbicides may be needed. For instance if horseweed is present, Ignite 280 maybe an option; or if glyphosate is used, Canopy or Canopy EX should be included to help control horseweed.

Postemergence applications from 14 to 28 days after planting resulted in similar weed control and yield in studies conducted with the Delaware Soybean Board. Check your fields about 14 days after planting because weeds not killed with the burndown treatment will be starting to re-grow. Then the second application can be made before the weeds become too large.

Grain Marketing Highlights - *Carl German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist;*
clgerman@udel.edu

Summer Impacts Commodity Marketing

The beginning of summer is always a delightful time of year for those of us who love the great outdoors. Simultaneously, it is often times the beginning of very uncertain and exciting times in the commodity markets. Volatility in commodity prices can rise with summer temperatures. The rise in volatility can result in catching a higher price for a portion of this year’s pre-harvest crop sales, something akin to catching a wave. This year is of no exception. Crop conditions throughout the major portion of the Corn Belt have been and continue to be nearly ideal with just a tad of trouble indicated in this week’s Weekly Crop Conditions report. U.S. corn crop conditions for the week ending June 20 were lowered 2 points in the good category, now rated 75 percent good to excellent (77 percent a week ago). U.S. soybean crop conditions were lowered 4 points in the good category to 69 percent good to excellent, compared to 73 percent a week ago. Even though the ratings were lowered, preliminary indications from

private sources since the release of the report on Monday are suggesting that we could see an upswing in these ratings in next week’s report. Generally speaking, the main portion of the Corn Belt is experiencing garden growing conditions while most of the problems belie the fringes of the Corn Belt. Eventually, depending to some degree on whether demand outpaces supply for the ‘10/‘11 marketing year, these types of ratings for crop conditions will result in prices moving lower as summer and crop size progresses? We may get a better handle on the answer to that question upon release of the June 30 Planted Acreage and USDA’s July 9 Supply/Demand reports.

USDA Export Sales Report 06/24

Pre-report estimates for weekly export sales of soybeans (combined old-crop and new-crop) ranged from 7.3 to 16.5 million bushels. The weekly report showed old-crop export sales of 11.3 million bushels, above the 3.6 million bushels needed this week to stay on pace with USDA’s demand projection of 1.455 billion bushels. Total shipments of 8.8 million bushels were below the 9.9 million bushels needed this week. This report should be viewed as neutral.

Pre-report estimates had weekly corn export sales at 25.6 to 39.4 million bushels. The weekly report showed old-crop export sales of 44.2 million bushels, well above the 9.3 million bushels needed this week to stay on pace with USDA’s demand projection of 1.95 billion bushels. Total shipments of 32.2 million bushels were below the 46.5 million bushels needed this week. This report should be viewed as neutral to bullish.

Pre-report estimates for wheat exports ranged between 9.2 to 16.5 million bushels. The weekly report showed total export sales of 26.5 million bushels, well above the 14.2 million bushels needed this week to stay on pace with USDA’s projected 900 million bushels. Shipments of 21.0 million bushels were below the 17.6 million bushels needed this week. This report should be viewed as neutral to bullish.

Market Strategy

As of Friday of last week, due to the wet conditions in the Corn Belt that resulted in a slight lowering of U.S. crop conditions for corn

and soybeans, the commodity markets were thought to be getting positive price signals. Outside market forces, the Dow, the dollar value, and crude oil prices also played a role. New crop corn futures prices are now 12 cents lower than last week, while new crop soybean and SRW wheat prices are within one cent per bushel of last week's price levels. New crop soybeans did a brief stint about a dime higher than yesterday's close on June 21. Dec '10 corn futures closed at \$3.65 per bushel; Nov '10 soybeans at \$9.23; and July SRW wheat at \$4.62 per bushel in yesterday's day trading. Outside market forces have turned price negative to commodity prices thus far this week. July corn needs to close over \$3.85 on June 30th to post a monthly reversal higher. July soybeans need to close over \$9.92, and SRW wheat over \$5.12 per bushel. Private sources are suggesting that China's decision to float their currency should support U.S. commodity prices. So that raises the question, "Is the higher reversal in commodity prices possible?" Answer: "In the summer months, anything is possible concerning commodity prices."

For assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist.

Announcements

Soybean Cyst Nematode Workshop

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 8:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
 Delmarva Poultry Industry Building
 (former UD office building)
 16684 County Seat Hwy.
 Georgetown, DE 19947

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a widespread and serious pest of soybeans on Delmarva. First discovered in the fall of 1979 it has been causing increased problems for growers in recent years. This workshop will cover some basics about the biology of SCN and its management and the results of the recent Delaware Soybean Board sponsored survey of SCN in Delaware. The workshop will also include visiting a small research plot to see SCN first hand and discuss symptoms, diagnosing SCN from root samples with a hand lens, and proper soil testing procedures. The workshop is suggested for agricultural professionals on

Delmarva who advise soybean growers and growers who want to know more about this important pest.

Pesticide recertification credits and CCA credits in pest management will be offered for attendees.

The cost of the program is \$10 per person with lunch included. The registration deadline is Friday, July 23.

A registration form is available here:

<http://www.rec.udel.edu/Extension/Agriculture/scn.html>

Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of June 17 to June 23, 2010

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

Rainfall:

2.20 inches: June 22

Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 94°F on June 20 to 83°F on June 18.

Lows ranged from 72°F on June 20 to 58°F on June 18.

Soil Temperature:

86.9°F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at
http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly_retrieval.html
 and
<http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Associate - Vegetable Crops

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