If you would like to be added to this mailing list, send a request to Molly Werner at werner022@umn.edu. This newsletter and the advice herein are free. You usually get what you pay for.

**Crop Weather**

Rainfall, temperatures, degree-days and other current and historical weather data for a spot about two miles west of Lamberton, MN can be found at the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) website: [http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/WeatherInformation/index.htm](http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/WeatherInformation/index.htm).

The SWROC accumulated little precipitation (0.15 inches) over the past week 5/28-6/3. It also accumulated little temperature; only 74 degree days (Base 50/86° F). 305 degree days have been accumulated since May 1. This is below the long-term historic average of 390.

Soil moistures taken on June 1st show now just slightly behind average at 6.42 inches in the top five feet. This soil holds about 9 inches in the five foot profile.

April 28th planted corn on the SWROC is at V3. Soybeans planted the same day are stuck at VC with the first trifoliate just string to expand.

**Rolling soybeans**

This can end badly when wet soils or crook stage soybeans are rolled.

**Armyworm**

The black light trap at the SWROC has been capturing armyworm moths consistently. These moths migrate in each spring. Surviving winter and some spring wheat fields may be large and dense enough to be attractive for egg laying. In two weeks, sweep net samples along grassy field edges should start to reveal larvae. Armyworms prefer
to feed on grass crops corn, wheat, oats and barley. Cool, wet years with lush grass foliage and armyworms often go together.

**Cutworm**
I have been seeing a few corn plants cut above ground. So far, the damage has been from dingy cutworm. Corn cut above ground will recover.

*Scouting tip: Due to the late planting getting things out of synch, small plants have been cut with little or no leaf feeding advance warning.*

Cutworms feed on more crops than corn. Broadleaf crops cut below the cotyledons will be killed. Small sugar beets and sunflowers are particularly sensitive to cutworm damage. Sugarbeets with an oat cover crop and heavily infested with common lambsquarters may have been attractive to the May 19-23 **black cutworm** flight.

Watch beet crops closely as oats and weeds are sprayed out.

**Alfalfa insects**
*Potato leafhoppers* have arrived. We captured our first leafhoppers on May 28th at the SWROC.

1st instar **alfalfa weevil larvae** are present but at very low numbers. The adults may have had a hard winter just like the neighborhood alfalfa.

**Sometime the sky does fall**
By now, many of you have been scouting for corn and soybean emergence problems.

We have come to expect mechanical perfection in planters and seed both. Seed being a living organism may disappoint us. A few percent non-emerging or stunted seedlings is be expected. From a biological perspective, 100% emergence would be very confusing indeed. Sometimes though, things do go wrong.

In issue 3, I mentioned the potential for soybean injury when **most** herbicides or premixes containing site of action #14 (SOA #14) compounds are applied
more than three days after planting. These herbicides are PPO (chlorophyll synthesis) inhibitors and include Verdict, Sharpen, Fierce, Authority and others. The site(s) of action (and use precautions) are listed on the herbicide label. These are excellent herbicides when used properly. Opened seed trenches and rain after herbicide application increase the chances of injury on not quite emerged soybeans.

The image included is from an undisclosed location. The soybeans were sprayed with a tank mix including a unnamed PPO inhibitor herbicide. The application was made approximately 8 days after planting. Soybeans may have just started cracking but no hypocotyls had emerged. A rain followed the herbicide application. Hypocotyl crooks are sensitive to injury from these herbicides and seedlings nearest the surface were injured and did not make it past the crook stage. The field was replanted.

Happy trails,

Bruce Potter (a.k.a. Chicken Little)

IPM Specialist SW MN
University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center
23669 130th Street
Lamberton, MN 56152
Phone: 507.752.5066  Cell: 507.276.1184
Fax: 507.752.5097
E-mail: bpotter@umn.edu
http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/ResearchandOutreach/PestManagement/index.htm

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