If you would like to be added to this mailing list, send a request to Molly Werner at werne022@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.

The SWROC accumulated 1.04 inches or rain over the past week 6/4 – 6/10. It was another cold week and we accumulated little temperature; only 54 degree days (Base 50/86° F). 371 degree days have been accumulated since May 1. This is below the long-term historic average of 510 by 3-4 days.

April 28th planted corn on the SWROC is at V4. Soybeans planted the same day are still stuck at VC with the first trifoliate just string to expand.

Soybean aphid
Soybean aphids have been reported from soybeans in southern Wisconsin and NE Iowa last week. I have not yet been able to find any on the larger soybeans at the SWROC. Aphids made it to area buckthorn last fall but a much lower numbers than typical.

I'd appreciate hearing from you when and where aphids start showing up in MN. As always, I will stick my neck out on an annual aphid prediction once a few sightings have been made.
Evaluating stands
The inevitable problems with stand are showing up. We have seen some corn injury where urea was applied close to planting. A pattern matching incorporation shovels can be seen in the few symptomatic fields I have been in.

I received a photo of corn with fomesafen (e.g. Flexstar) carry-over. Late herbicide applications and the incredibly dry 2012 summer and fall combine to increase risk.

Soybean injury from late applications of pre-emerge herbicide have been discussed in previous issues.

Several fields have shown stand reductions from another cause. There is a kink at the radical and a restriction in the crook of the hypocotyl. Please let me know if you have
seen injury like these. Details on date planted, herbicides applied, seed treatments and whether single or multiple varieties are affected would be helpful.

**Alfalfa insects**
Variegated cutworm larvae are present in some alfalfa fields. Scout for these before cutting. Similar to alfalfa weevil, these larvae can injure re-growth when concentrated under windrows.

**Pea aphids in the pink**
While sweeping alfalfa last week, we noticed some pink aphids mixed in with the typical green pea aphids. The pink aphids are pea aphids also. This is the first I can remember seeing this biotype at the SWROC.

The red/green color morphs are not injured parasitized or diseased. Some scientists believe that the color morphs are the result of pea aphids having incorporated genes from fungi into their DNA. Why? It seems that some predators, lady beetles for example, prefer the red aphids and some parasitic wasps prefer to sting and lay eggs in green aphids. The red and green coloration in the pea aphid population may be due to predation.
There may be other advantages in addition to avoiding predators for incorporating these. Aphids are also known to incorporate other micro-organisms as symbiots that change their color, improve heat stress tolerance and otherwise improve their lot in life.

And you thought the seed companies had been busy creating GMOs!

**Make sure of your target before pulling the treatment trigger**

Sweeps of lodged grasses on field edges have revealed a number of larva that somewhat resemble true armyworm. These are a grass sawfly species.

Sawflies are primitive Hymenoptera and are more closely related to wasps than moths.

The smaller larvae are green and turn gray green as they mature.

Sawfly larvae have eight pairs of fleshy prologs rather than the five pairs or less of butterfly and moth larvae. They also have a distinctive dark eye.
In other states, grass sawflies have been observed to clip heads on wheat when populations are very high. They are unlikely to damage corn or soybeans.

**A new way to combat flies**

I will leave you with the link to a youtube video that definitely makes me wish I had thought of that: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Slq3WY8ehM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Slq3WY8ehM).

I can see a big market amongst agriculturalists waiting out rain delays.

Happy trails,

Bruce Potter

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](http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/ResearchandOutreach/PestManagement/index.htm)

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