This newsletter and the advice herein are free. You usually get what you pay for.

**Crop weather**
Rainfall, air and soil temperatures, degree-days, soil moistures, and other current and historical weather data for a little 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 crop looks good overall but will need additional moisture to finish in some areas. We are seeing moisture stress in some areas of SW MN. Cool nights would be beneficial.

Early-planted shorter season corn hybrids are beginning to dent. Treatment for most insects, mites and diseases should stop at this point.

Early maturity soybeans are reaching R6 (seed fills the canopy in one of the upper 4 nodes). Most are mid R5.

*Aphids in corn: The dilemma of post-pollination infestations*: Minnesota Crop News: University of Minnesota Extension. Yes, they can make a disgusting mess in your corn. There were many questions on these over the past week so Ken Ostlie and I re-worked and added some pictures to last week's article and posted it to the Minnesota Crop News blog. While we still don't have any research-based threshold recommendations, payback for treatment is definitely not a given. The bird-cherry oat aphids have started to leave some fields.

**Soybean aphid**
Some previously sprayed fields look good from the road but they may have heavy soybean aphid populations. This is just another reminder to check fields to ensure the application worked and the field has not become reinfested. Heavy flights of winged aphids have made long-term control difficult in many fields. Insecticides need good
coverage for best aphid control. This season's tall, dense crop made adequate coverage more difficult than usual.

**Moths**

There have been many questions on the dark, triangular-shaped moths appearing in Southwest Minnesota. These are the adults of the legume feeding **green cloverworm**. The projections at the front of the head are the labial palps of the mouthparts, elongated in this species.

The larvae that produced these moths were responsible for creating some of the holes in upper soybean leaves this year.

If concerned about defoliation make sure larvae are still abundant. The populations often collapse from disease or parasitism. Don't base decisions on field borders or only upper leaves. Use a 20% whole-plant defoliation treatment threshold. Average the defoliation on leaves from the top, middle and lower canopy to determine whole-plant defoliation.

We had a larger than usual migration of moths into Minnesota this spring. There are several generations of this insect in Minnesota, each one taking about a month. Although this insect has been unusually abundant this year, there is no reason to kill the moths.

The yellow butterflies that are abundant in some areas are the adults of **alfalfa caterpillar**. The larvae feed on legumes, including soybeans and alfalfa but seldom reach economic levels.

**Save the date:**

*There will be an SCN plot tour at the SWROC, Lamberton, Wednesday September 9. It will be a good opportunity to see SCN research on varieties and chemical control of SCN and visit with U of M researchers.*

Happy trails,

Bruce Potter

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