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 Lamberton location accumulated 490 Growing Degree Days (base 50°F) from May 1 through June 10. For those of you that planted early, 29 GDD were accumulated from April 15 to May 1.

We have had 6.4 inches of precipitation since May 1 and 9.01 inches of precipitation since January 1.

Some crop stages and notes for earliest planted/emerged crops are:

**Corn**

7 collars

Some may be concerned that once uniform corn stands becoming uneven or yellowing. While there can sometimes be nutrient or disease issues associated with these symptoms, most often this is temporary and related to the young corn plant shifting to nodal root development. Typically, things look the worst at 6-7 leaf corn. Residue, planting depth, soil type, soil moisture and weather can all influence root development and nutrient uptake at this time. As root development increases to match the rapidly growing shoots, growth will approve.

**Corn rootworm**

The adults of one of the firefly species are now present in SC and SW Minnesota. As a result of this phenological marker, I suspect corn rootworm egg hatch has begun.

However, temperature dependant development (degree day) models would indicate that the 2015 western corn rootworm hatch is a long way from complete.
For the 1st generation flight of multivoltine *European corn borer* should be on now. A few moths have been captured at Rosemount in Dakota County but nothing in has been captured in the SWROC black light as of yet. While the low numbers are not unexpected, there are very light traps operating in Minnesota this year.

Corn borer populations have been very, very low for several years. As a result, some of the younger agriculturalists may not have seen these in the wild. I included a photo of the adult to serve as an identification aid for the young and to refresh memories of the old. Some corn growers opted for corn hybrids without Bt to save 2015 input costs. Continued very low corn borer flight numbers would be welcome news. I wonder if they included corn borers in the new movie "Jurassic World"?

Armyworm

As mentioned earlier in the week, *Armyworm larvae* have damaged some corn where a rye cover crop was used. The rye cover seems to be a common factor in reports from near Hastings, south of Owatonna and even northeast Nebraska. I would also pay close attention to fields with heavy early season grass weed pressure. In sweeps of grassy field margins at the SWROC, small larvae are not hard to find but also not alarmingly high. The lack of black light trap locations means we may easily have missed observing a significant flight into the state from the south. *Economic infestation of armyworm could be in other areas than those mentioned above.*

**Soybean**

V3-V4 for early planted

Most fields look good. There are several giant ragweed disasters out there but most fields have good weed control, good stands and post emerge weed control is in progress.

Areas with prolonged wet soils may see some root disease develop. There have been a few scattered reports of *seedcorn maggot* with the usual manure/green manure trigger. *Soybean aphids* are not hard to find on the largest soybeans.

**Winter wheat**

Flowering

Stripe rust is present a low levels in variety trials at the SWROC. Leaf rust is also present but at even lower levels. We are seeing some scattered plants with late
developing and presumably less yield limiting symptoms of barley yellow dwarf virus. Bird-cherry oat aphid populations are declining at this location and English grain aphids are currently hard to find.

**Spring wheat**  **Boot - heading**
Bird-cherry oat aphid populations have net progress and probably declined. At the SWROC, leaf diseases remain minor but stripe and to a lesser extent leaf rust is present. Aphid populations have declined. Pay close attention to field edges and any lodged areas for armyworm.

**Oats**  **Heading**
See comments on spring wheat above

**Alfalfa**  **Re-growth of second crop**
With the recent wet weather re-growth has been good. Watch for leaf diseases in second crop for leaf disease.

**What is it?**
Some of you may know what these are and some of you might have seen the following insect and plant and wondered what they are. I'll give the answers in the next issue. There are no cash or other prizes for guessing these correctly but feel free to buy yourself something nice if you think that you know what these are!

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#1 This caterpillar was found in alfalfa but it is not commonly an economic pest in Minnesota. If you count the insect's legs, you will see that it comes up a couple pairs short of a typical butterfly or moth. This creates a characteristic humpbacked gait. The adult is often seen feeding on flowers during late summer evenings. Larval populations are controlled by virus and other natural enemies.
#2 This plant seems a bit more abundant than usual this spring. Is most common along the edges of groves. It is native to Eurasia and an escapee from cultivation. In spite of its showy, four-petal spring flowers, it is an invasive weed.

Happy trails,

Bruce Potter

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