

Scout All Fields NOW for Alfalfa Weevil!

Reports of alfalfa weevil feeding are coming in from all areas including southern Michigan. Earlier freezing temperatures damaged alfalfa but had minimal effect on these insects. With the alfalfa trying to regrow following freeze damage, it is important to be aggressive in preventing additional damage from weevil feeding, as spring growth is vital for restoring root reserves for overall plant health.

All fields should now be scouted and treated if near threshold levels. Initial signs of feeding will appear as small pinholes in the terminal leaves. When the terminal leaves are carefully teased apart, you should be able to find small, yellowish larvae with black heads. The larva will eventually turn green (with a white stripe), and grow to a length of about 3/8-inch.

The Ohio State University has developed an easy to use guideline (below) to determine when corrective action is typically warranted, however if alfalfa weevil feeding is interfering with regrowth from the crown or lower stem following freeze damage, treatment may also be warranted.



Figure 1. Weevil Larva of various sizes



Figure 2. Weevil larval damage

Alfalfa Weevil Guidelines (OSU)

Alfalfa Height (inch)	Tip Feeding %	Weevils Per Stem	Action
6	25	1	Recheck in 7 days
9	50	1	Apply rescue treatment
12	75	2	Apply rescue treatment

Preplant Burndown Applications with 2,4-D Can Provide a Good Start

Recent warm, wet weather has brought forth a carpet of green, purple, and yellow weed growth in many fields. These weeds will not only compete with planted crops, but can interfere with tillage and planting operations, and harbor several serious insect pests. Now is the time to apply aid-to-tillage or preplant burndown applications, especially in no-till soybeans, before these weeds get any larger. As the planting season is compressed it may be difficult to wait the required 7 days, but where it is manageable, continue its use.

As with all things in life heed the following disclaimer: "For best results, burndown herbicides should be applied when evening temperatures remain above 40°F for several days."

Black Cutworm Moths Are Arriving in the Area

Black cutworm moths are being trapped in Indiana and Ohio. Female moths will most likely lay their eggs in fields now covered with grasses or winter annual weeds such as chickweed and mustards. Fields that are currently showing a lot of "green-up" are at the highest risk for cutworm damage. Because the occurrence of cutworms is difficult to predict, universities recommend scouting emerged corn and spraying insecticides as needed for rescue.

However, insecticides such as Pounce 3.2EC (4-6 oz/Acre), Delta Gold (1-1.5 oz/Acre), or Taiga Z (1.92-2.56 oz/Acre) can also be applied early with herbicides or liquid nitrogen, thus providing a convenient economic treatment to prevent cutworm damage in many no-till or otherwise weedy fields.

Dave Taylor, CCA
Area Agronomist,
Champaign Landmark



Foliar Fungicide Application for Wheat

Foliar diseases can be a major threat to winter wheat producers. Both yields and grain quality can be significantly affected by various diseases such as leaf rust, Septoria, powdery mildew, and others. Application of a foliar fungicide provides growers with an excellent opportunity to maximize their yield and grain quality. Many commonly used products work well against Septoria and leaf rust, but differ in efficacy regarding powdery mildew. Application should be timed to protect the flag leaf (Feekes 8 to 9). Management strategies for head scab include spraying an appropriate triazole fungicide during early flowering stage (Feekes 10.5). The addition of adjuvants such as Preference® at 1 pt/100 gallons + InterLock™ at 2 oz/acre will improve spray coverage and deposition.

Efficacy of Wheat Fungicides

Fungicide®	Powdery Mildew	Septoria Leaf/Glume	Leaf Rust	Head Scab
Headline®	G	VG	E	---
Quadris®	F-G	VG	E	---
Proline™	?	VG	VG	G-VG
Tilt®/ PropiMax®	VG	VG	VG	F
Quilt®	VG	VG	E	---
Stratego®	G	VG	G	---
Folicur®	G	VG	E	G

Dave Taylor, CCA Area Agronomist, Champaign Landmark

Crop Advantage

In the last issue of Agri-Notes I mentioned that we had hired six college students to work this summer as field techs for the Crop Advantage Department. Soon they will be busy doing field observations on those fields enrolled in the Full Service Program. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce them.



Dustin Dale Alltop, a graduate of Triad Local, is a junior at Wilmington College and is majoring in agbusiness. He likes baseball, working on the farm, going to dairy shows, working with cattle, and is a member of the Wilmington College Aggies. He was in the FFA all through high school and through that learned a lot about agronomy. In college he has learned a lot about crops and soils through his studies of agriculture.



Kevin Beatty, a graduate of Riverside High School, will be a freshman at Wilmington College in the fall and is majoring in agronomy with a minor in chemistry. He likes farming and working with his hands. He was raised on a diversified grain farm, and worked on Wilmington's academic farm. He also worked for Monsanto with rootworm sticky traps in soybean fields.



Adam Conrad, a graduate of North Union High School, is in his second year at OSU and is majoring in crop science with a minor in agbusiness. He is from Richwood and loves being outside, hunting, fishing, farming, and enjoys all sports. He placed first in the state and second in the nation in the FFA agronomy competition in 2007. He has worked on a farm most of his life and has worked at the Mount Victory and Richwood Branches of Champaign Landmark as seasonal help.



David W. Glett is a junior at Wilmington College of Ohio and is majoring in agriculture with a minor in chemistry. He is from Bellefontaine and enjoys bicycling, beekeeping, gardening, hunting, reading, and playing the piano. He grew up on a small farm, worked several years at a produce farm, spent one summer at Scotts Miracle-Gro in research, and has experimented with crops and plants his entire life.



Patrick Hess will be a freshman at Clark State Community College in the fall and is majoring in agbusiness with a minor in agengineering. He is from St. Paris and likes sports. He also likes building and engineering things. He has worked on his family farm for several years with his father and brothers.



Brooke Tullis, a graduate of West Liberty-Salem High School, is a junior at Wilmington College majoring in agbusiness. She enjoys showing steers, reading, and being active in the FFA. She has taken agricultural classes, such as Principles of Crops and Animal Science 1 and Principles of Crops and Animal Science 2.

We are spending quite a bit of time training and teaching these individuals to be our eyes in the field and we are confident they will do a good job. While we expect them to work hard and cover a few hundred acres every day, if you see one of them at your farm or out in your field, please feel free to take a few minutes to say "Hi".

Terry House, CCA Crop Advantage Manager, 937-605-4270



For more details call your local branch manager or 1-800-424-2584 or visit www.champaignlandmark.com.

