

6/16/17

Crop Update

Corn Soybean Forage

Corn:

Corn overall, looks good going into later stages, despite a rough start and the general dry conditions over last couple weeks. The rain was a welcome relief but total amounts were highly variable and with warm daytime and nighttime conditions, that moisture will be short lived. As corn moves into VT (tassel) growth stage, continue to monitor potential disease presence and insect pressure.

Although past seasons do not predict this season, one disease to be mindful of is southern corn rust. Some scouting tips to revisit include distinguishing southern rust from common rust. Southern rust development is favored by high temperatures, high humidity and prolonged leaf wetness. Southern rust pustules are orange, round/oval, with yellow halos and generally, are in clusters located on the upper corn leaf surface, mid-canopy or higher. Common rust pustules are darker in color, blocky, and can be found on upper and lower leaf surfaces. In the absence of favorable conditions, disease development will be minimal and much slower. VT to R3 is considered the development window where yield loss can occur with southern rust and fungicide applications in the presence of disease would be beneficial. If southern rust did move in on later reproductive development stages yield loss potential is reduced and the benefit from fungicides is unlikely. More information on rust identification can be found in [MU IPM Guide 1001 "Corn Diseases."](#)

Japanese beetles, seem to have emerged a little earlier this season. In general, these beetles can move into a corn field and feed on corn silks. In the past, these pests have only built up in numbers in isolated areas of field edges. Threshold for corn is an average of 3 beetles per ear during active pollination with silks clipped to ¾ inch above husk. In the years that these beetles have been present in SEMO, I have not seen thresholds that have justified a treatment. One of those reasons is to understand corn pollination. Pollen shed begins a couple of days before silk emergence and continues a couple days after pollination. Silks emerge on an ear over a 2 to 3 day period, but will continue to be receptive to pollen for up to 10 days. A uniform field will generally complete pollination in less than a week. Once pollen lands on a silk, the corn ovule is pollinated within 24 hours. Therefore the silk clipping window to cause yield loss is relatively short.

Soybean:

A few articles have been written recently by weed scientists about the importance of herbicide timing and weed height. Kevin Bradley and Larry Steckel have written articles recently on the Xtend-trait soybeans. The articles can be found on [MU IPM](#) and [UT Crops](#) websites, respectively. I would re-emphasize the importance of weed height (<4 inches), follow label restrictions for [Engenia](#), [Xtendimax](#), and [Fexapan](#) and visit those websites, and be mindful of what is at and near the use site.

Forages:

As we move into summer, summer annual weed emergence has begun. A very useful guide on forage weed management is [IPM Guide 1031](#), Weed and Brush Control for Forages. As hay harvest was delayed and begins to wind down, consider a forage test this season. There is information in two information sheets attached.

Thank You,

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