Agronomy Information and Tips

Graves Chapple Field Day - 8:30AM, Tuesday, August 23
Hundley-Whaley Field Day - 9AM, Wednesday, August 24

Monitor soybeans for green stick-bug. The economic threshold is one stink-bug per linear foot of row. Insect feeds by puncturing pods, seeds, petioles, leaves and stems.

Mites found in soybeans. Mite injured field found by Mark Buntz south of Oregon during early season and he brought samples into the office. Watch out for mites during hot dry conditions. See page 2 picture taken July 28th.

General rule of thumb for soybean defoliators. Economic threshold before bloom is greater than 30% defoliations before soybean bloom. After, reduce defoliation to 20% during bloom to pod fill.

Green-snap corn and fungicides. The injury from hail and green snap are more limiting factors that using a fungicide to protect the existing foliage. The data that I have seen indicates very minimal or no effect on yield.

Check corn for pollination. Exposed silks should turn brown and separate from the ear when husks are removed. Silks that have not be successfully pollinated will stay green and elongate a couple more inches. Later, one can estimate the yield of corn by systematic sampling fields and using formulas to calculate yield.

Zidua a new herbicide (pyroxasulfone) from BASF. This herbicide has been in Missouri trials for several years. You can look at herbicide trials at MU Weed Science home page. You can search products and look the trial results the products were tested in.

Sulfur deficient corn. We have confirmed sulfur deficient corn in Northwest Missouri. We have cleaned the atmosphere so well that we may need to routinely apply this nutrient in the future. In the past, we received sulfur in the form of atmospheric deposition when we received rainfall.

Plant tissue testing at MU. If you need plant tissue testing, the University of Missouri soil testing lab can handle plant tissue analysis. The lab can analyze for primary, secondary and micro-nutrients. It is best to always run two tests. One where the crop is growing well and other of an area where the crop is growing poorly. Dry weather can cause results to be misleading and comparisons of good and bad are best. Also, soil samples should be used also in combination with tissue tests to confirm.
Potato leaf hopper. Dr. Wayne Bailey, State Entomologist, indicates there are a number of alfalfa fields being impacted by this insect pest. This tiny insect causes stunting of alfalfa.

What to do after flood waters subside? Extension staff are planning county meetings to provide information to help growers to help them prepare for next growing season. Dates will be announced in the future.

See article “Controlling Big Weeds in Soybean, What can you do?” Check page 121 in the Integrated Pest Management Newsletter written by Dr. Kevin Bradley, Weed Scientist. You can receive this newsletter free by going to this web site—http://ppp.missouri.edu/newsletters/subscribe.htm

High temperatures affect gray leaf spot development. Gray leaf spot develops best at temperatures between 70 and 86 degrees F. At temperatures above 86 degrees F., fungal growth slows down.

Cover crop seeding. If cover crops are to be seeded into standing corn, target the first week in September. Cover crops will be spindly under the corn canopy but this date is more consistent that waiting later season. If planting cover crops in standing soybeans, target seeding just before leaf drop.

Small grains can provide high quality forage in late fall. Winter wheat can be grazed in the fall, spring and then harvested for grain. Winter rye also works well and tends to be suited to fall and winter pasture.

Plan now for winter wheat planting. University winter wheat trials can be found at http://varietytesting.missouri.edu/.

Do you have specific problems or topics that you need information regarding and know that other growers would be interested. Give me a phone call and lets discuss. Thanks Wayne.

If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please contact Charmaine Flint, Holt County Secretary at 660-446-3724.

Information contained in this newsletter is intended for use in Northwest Missouri and may need to be adapted to other locations. We ask that you credit University of Missouri Extension if you use this information.