Winter Rye is almost in the boot stage (seed head wrapped in the last leaf sheath at the top of the plant), which means it is about ready for forage harvest. The growing point of the smaller tiller (side shoot) is 8” above the soil surface. The growing point in the main stem is 12” high. So, you can now mow and seed heads will not pop up in the field after harvest. However, not all fields are the same, so check yours. It just takes a sharp pocket knife to split the stem length-wise. Growing points are well above cutter bar height.
**Winter Barley** is in the stem elongation stage. So, it is now too late to apply any growth regulator herbicides. Other herbicides are available to control grasses and broadleaf weeds in barley (and other small grains) that can be applied up to flag leaf stage.

**Winter barley in the stem elongation stage**

**Weed Control in corn:** Herbicides can be expensive. In a tight year, the old low-cost standby herbicides may be an option. If you don’t have heavy annual grass pressure, Prowl and atrazine can do a decent job. If ragweed is an issue, Sharpen can improve control. Of course, you must know what weeds you have and how much to make a good herbicide selection.

Other field observations:
- Cereal leaf beetle have emerged in western New York on small grains.
- I have never seen any, but Pennsylvania has timothy mites (very tiny mites in timothy grass). Check out this website for cereal leaf beetle and the timothy mite: [https://extension.psu.edu/pests-to-keep-in-mind-cereal-leaf-beetle-and-timothy-mite](https://extension.psu.edu/pests-to-keep-in-mind-cereal-leaf-beetle-and-timothy-mite)
- We have caught one black cutworm moth in the Salem area. Other parts of New York are catching them as well, with most being trapped in western NY.

**Weather Outlook** (from the Climate Prediction Center, [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)) for the next two weeks and three months is for a slightly warmer and slightly wetter than normal weather.