Capital Area Ag Report
July 3, 2018

If you have a crop related question, send me a picture via text or email, or just give me a call.
Aaron, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu

FYI

Nation-wide Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Management Survey for Commercial Producers (25 minutes) — help with controlling this invasive pest. The link to the on-line survey along with more information about the survey can be found on the StopBMSB.org website (http://stopbmsb.org/go/BfxA).


Agronomy—Aaron Gabriel

Heat and Forage Quality — We grow mainly cool-season grasses and legumes, with an emphasis on “cool”. High temperatures cause these plants to produce more lignin (same thing as wood) which is indigestible. So, if you are a fanatic about fiber digestibility in your forage, it is best to harvest hay crops before a heat wave.

Potato Leafhopper — populations increase rapidly in the heat. Check all alfalfa fields, especially new seedings. The options are to harvest early or apply insecticide. If you see
yellow leaves, damage is already taking place. [https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/forages/insects-forage-crops/potato-leafhopper/](https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/forages/insects-forage-crops/potato-leafhopper/)

**Armyworm**—We have been catching adults armyworm moths in eastern New York traps, but so far I have not seen any infestations of the larvae (worms). Other parts of New York do have armyworm infestations. A recent email from Ken Wise (NYS IPM Specialist) gives some great information:

“Mike Hunter (CCE Northern NY) is finding a lot of true armyworm in grass hay fields in Northern NY. He states the larvae are still very small (1 mm to 1.5 mm) and are in the 1st instar. These armyworm moths most likely have come on the recent storms from the south and laid their eggs in hay fields. If there is a lot in the field you will not see much damage until they reach the later instars. True armyworm larvae in their (6th) final instar will eat 80% of all the forage they will consume. Many times a hay field can look great in the evening and gone the next day if they all reach the 6th instar about the same time.

It is best to scout your fields ASAP and look for smaller larvae. Be proactive make sure you know if your fields are infested. True armyworm will feed on grasses, corn and small grains. There are economic thresholds for corn and small grains.

Recommended economic thresholds for corn:
- seedling: 10 percent or more plants show damage and larvae are still present.
- whorl-stage: apply an insecticide when there are three or more larvae per plant.
- Tall corn seldom needs treatment unless the leaves above the ear are also damaged.

Recommended economic thresholds for small grains:
- Wheat/small grains - 5 or more larvae per linear ft of row, larvae less than 1.25 inches and not parasitized, watch for flag leaf reduction or if grain heads clipped off - yield losses, a spray before soft dough to save the remaining 3 upper leaves is generally beneficial since these tissues are still important to grain filling

Recommended economic thresholds for grasses:
- Grasses - no specific guidelines available, need for treatment based on the level of damage observed in relation to the expected value of grass harvest

Most years, natural enemies—various fungal and viral diseases as well as parasites such as tachinid flies—help suppress armyworms. You cannot be sure when and where they occur.

Sometimes when armyworms are at very high populations they will march to new fields. They can be in a hay field and move to a corn or small grains field.

SPECIAL NOTE: if you spray for armyworm the CROP and True/Common Armyworm has to be on the label! READ THE LABEL!!!!!!

Check the Cornell Guide for Integrated Crop Management for an insecticide labeled for use.

I have added some web links that have specific armyworm information:


*Armyworm (Pseudaletia unipuncta Haworth)*

*Armyworm as a Pest of Field Corn*

*Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management*

*Armyworm Damage to Field Corn and Grass Hay and Pasture*