Field Crop Report

Ontario

Corn: Greg Stewart

Corn development continues to move along at a good pace. Corn generally requires approximately 60 days from pollination to maturity (black layer). The early planted corn is on target for mid to late September maturity and even the later planted corn may not need that much of October to mature.

Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) damage continues to threaten some areas with hot spots identified between Bothwell-Strathroy and south of Tillsonburg. Fields may be at risk of extended WBC feeding this fall, particularly those that were late planted or where egg laying occurred over a wider window. However, all corn producers should scout to identify areas at risk that may need to be harvested earlier, monitored for ear mould damage, or flagged as farms requiring careful WBC management in 2012 (http://bit.ly/omafrainsects1).

Figure 1. Full grown WBC larva.

Figure 2. Typical WBC ear damage.

Silage Moisture Alert!! Some of the first silage fields are already harvested. Harvesting silage at the correct moisture is critical for good fermentation and feed quality (http://bit.ly/omafrasilage1). Recommended moisture contents for corn silage are as follows: horizontal bunker silos = 65 – 70 %, bag silos = 60 – 70 %, Upright concrete stave silos = 62 – 67 %, Upright oxygen limiting silo = 50 - 60 %. The kernel milk line is often used to determine when to harvest corn silage. The traditional recommendation has been to harvest from one-half to two-thirds milk line. However the range in whole plant moisture when plants are at one-half milk line can be large. Check for moisture using a microwave, Koster oven or send a sample to a lab. Typically silage moisture falls by 0.5% per day during this time of year but this number may vary depending on weather and soil moisture status.

Soybeans: Horst Bohner

Soybeans are maturing rapidly with most fields showing some signs of senescence (yellowing). Early seeded fields with short day varieties are senescing very quickly and some have significant leaf drop. The majority of beans are at the R6 growth stage where seeds within the top 4 pods fill the cavity. The dry June/July conditions slowed canopy closure and in many places allowed a flush of weeds to emerge which remained hidden under the crop canopy until lately. A pre-harvest burndown to facilitate harvest can be used if weed pressure is high. If the field is intended for winter wheat and perennial weed pressure is high (eg. milkweed), a pre-harvest burn-down may be the only option since not enough weed top growth will remain to ensure control once the soybeans are harvested. Tramping losses must be considered, and usually range around 2-3%. A pre-harvest burndown will not mature the crop more or advance harvest. Timing is important so wait for 80-90% leaf drop and grain moisture is below 30% before applying a pre-harvest burn down. Don't apply a pre-harvest burndown for seed soybeans.

Cereals: Peter Johnson / Scott Banks

Winter Cereals: Variety information is available at www.gocereals.ca. Plant early! Yields decrease by 1 bu/ac/day when seeding is delayed past the optimum seeding date (http://bit.ly/omafrawheat1). Target appropriate seeding rates where 22 seeds/foot of row is the normal target (1.5 m seeds/ac). Lodging increases significantly when high seeding rates are used at early planting dates. For growers planting well ahead of the normal window, target 15-17 seeds/ft. Set seeding depth accurately. 90% of problem calls in the spring are from improper seeding depth, mostly too shallow. Target 1 to 1.5" for best results. The addition of Cruiser as a seed treatment averages a 1 bu/ac yield increase. Cruiser is best targeted to high risk fields such as following sod or where a history of European chafer or wireworm exists.

Spring Cereals: Harvest is virtually complete. Yields have been average, but range widely depending on planting date and management. Barley yields suffered the most from wet conditions in early spring, while oat yields suffered tremendously where fungicides were not used to control leaf diseases. All three crops showed greater response to fungicides and added nitrogen than in previous years. Quality has been good with isolated hotspots of fusarium, or very low test weights where diseases were not controlled.

Weather Summary

WIN Weather Innovations Incorporated

Location	Aug 23 - Aug 29 2011	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall	Heat Units	Total Since May 1	
		Max	Min	(mm)	CHU	Rain	CHU
Outdoor Farm Show	2011	24.5	12.3	40.3	151.5	363.3	2548
	30 Yr. Avg.	24.5	13.6	19.2	165	330.6	2578.5
Windsor	2011	26.2	16	8.4	184.6	503.1	3067.6
	30 Yr. Avg.	25.5	14.9	19.4	175.9	302.8	2794
Trenton	2011	23.4	14.4	24.2	165.4	350	2716
	30 Yr. Avg.	23.9	12.8	18.7	157.6	305	2479.8
Mount Forest	2011	23.3	12.9	14.4	155.2	242.1	2449.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	23.6	12.7	21.9	156.4	333.8	2390.9
London	2011	24.7	13.5	38.2	164.5	372.3	2723.5
	30 Yr. Avg.	24.5	13.8	20.6	166.7	330.9	2598.5
Hamilton	2011	26.5	13.6	19.6	169.1	259.8	2667.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	24.6	14.2	17.5	168.8	310.4	2612.6
Ottawa	2011	24.2	13.5	3.6	163.1	279.9	2705.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	24	12.6	20.4	157.3	341	2569.6
Elora	2011	23.7	12	13.6	152.1	386.2	2437.3
	30 Yr. Avg.	24	12.8	20.4	158.5	331	2455.2
Peterborough	2011	24.1	12.2	15.5	153.6	297	2542.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	23.7	12.6	19.4	155.8	309.7	2442.5

For more information please contact the CropLine at 1-888-449-0937
or visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/croppest

Agri-Food and Rural Link