



PEST MANAGEMENT & CROP DEVELOPMENT

BULLETIN

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INSECTS

Insects and Hot, Dry Weather—A General Statement

In many areas of Illinois, the stress on crops from hot, dry weather has been exacerbated by insect problems. Injury caused by corn rootworm adults and Japanese beetles has added stress to crops already stressed by a lack of moisture. And some insects benefit directly from hot, dry weather conditions. Populations of corn leaf aphids, grasshoppers, potato leafhoppers, and spider mites almost always benefit as a consequence of hot, dry weather.

With all of these problems occurring at the same time in some areas and with the second generation of European and southwestern corn borers looming, making control decisions is becoming more difficult. Farmers are willing to spend only so much money for insect control. And if yield potential begins to decline or if the value for the crops remains low, deciding whether to apply an insecticide becomes that much more difficult.

In every situation, you have to consider the potential impact of the insect or mite pest, the amount of damage the pests are causing, the yield potential of the stressed crops, the value of the crop, and the cost of control. Assessing all of these variables is not an easy task, and the process is fraught with uncertainty. We hope that the information we provide helps with the decision making, but ultimately you have to use your best judgment for each insect problem you encounter.

Good luck out there. These are trying times.—*Kevin Steffey*

Japanese Beetle Woes Continue

Japanese beetles continue to cause problems for corn and soybean growers in many areas of Illinois. In some counties, infestations are spotty; in other counties, most fields seem to be infested. Reports of silk clipping in cornfields and defoliation in soybean fields are common, and insecticide applications to prevent further injury are warranted in many fields. One agronomist estimated that about 10,000 acres of corn and a few thousand acres of soybeans had been sprayed in Christian, DeWitt, Macon, and Moultrie counties.

We're not entirely certain how much longer Japanese beetles will afflict us, but there's some potentially good news on the horizon. Steve Engels, an agronomist in southern Indiana, reported on July 12 that Japanese beetles in his area may have declined by about 75%. He still finds them in soybean fields, but they are scarce in cornfields. Ron Hines, senior research specialist with the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, has indicated that captures of Japanese beetles in traps have plummeted from 300 to 500 per day to only 30 to 60 per day. The cause for these declines is a mystery, but it's worth noting for those people who have been battling Japanese beetles since late June.

In a previous *Bulletin* (issue no. 15, July 5, 2002), I discussed some of the feeding preferences of Japanese beetles. By now everyone knows that Japanese beetle adults feed on leaves, tassels, silks, and pollen in corn and on leaves and flowers in soybeans. In both crops, Japanese beetles are capable of interfering with pollination; consequently, these insects threaten yield potential. Matt Montgomery, Extension unit educator in crop systems in Springfield, took some photographs that reveal the end results of Japanese beetles affecting kernel set in corn. In a field near Illiopolis (Sangamon County), silk clipping by these beetles resulted in ears on which kernels developed on only half of the cob. In another field in which silk clipping was less severe, only the tips of the ears lacked kernels. This evidence should be an ample reminder for people to monitor for Japanese beetles in late-planted corn that has not begun to pollinate.

Japanese beetle injury to either corn or soybeans will add to the other stresses (e.g., moisture stress) that crops are currently subjected to in some areas. Therefore, consider adjusting economic thresholds accordingly. In some situations, it's appropriate to lower economic thresholds for insect damage when plants are suffering from other stresses. However, you also must consider potential yield when making such a decision. The potential for lower yields usually results in an increase of economic thresholds. So, use your best judgment in each field you scout. Consider the density of Japanese beetles, amount of injury (silk clipping in corn, defoliation in soybeans), level of crop stress, yield potential, and cost of control before making a decision to treat a field with an insecticide.

Thresholds and insecticides for management of Japanese beetles in corn and soybeans were provided in issue no. 14 (June 28, 2002) of the *Bulletin*. Keep scouting and sending reports.—*Kevin Steffey*

Corn Rootworm Larval Injury and Dry Weather: Not a Good Combination

Reports of large densities of western corn rootworm adults are common across much of the northern half of Illinois. We've discussed the topic of corn rootworm management in several previous issues of the *Bulletin*; however, the severity of injury in some producers' fields warrants further discussion. In addition to root pruning and lodging, many farmers are scouting fields and finding both western corn rootworm and Japanese beetle adults clipping silks. Shawn Jones, a field sales agronomist with Pioneer Hi-Bred Inc., indicated that some cornfields in Piatt County have as many as 5 to 10 western corn rootworm adults per plant. Shawn also reported that many cornfields in Christian, DeWitt, Macon, and Moultrie counties have been treated to prevent excessive silk clipping caused by corn rootworm and Japanese beetle adults. Because of the late planting in many areas of east-central Illinois, growers are justifiably concerned about the combination of dry weather and insect injury during this critical period of corn development. John Fulton, an Extension unit leader in Logan County, indicated on July 15 that some seed production fields were being treated for western corn rootworm silk clipping with densities averaging about three adults per plant.

In northeastern Illinois, reports of corn rootworm larval injury in first-year cornfields are common in some of the local coffee shops. Gary Bretthauer, an Extension unit educator in Kendall County, reported on July 11 that he examined a first-year cornfield that had severe larval injury. Gary observed some regrowth on the injured root systems, but he anticipates reports of lodging to accelerate if any significant storm activity moves through northeastern Illinois. Perhaps the most impressive corn rootworm larval injury to rotated corn was reported by Dale Baird, an Extension educator in

the Rockford Extension Center. Dale observed a first-year cornfield in northern LaSalle County that had severe lodging. During the evening of July 8, a storm accompanied by high winds swept through an area about 10 miles north of Utica. The winds toppled many plants that had severely pruned root systems. Kevin Black, Growmark Company, also visited the field and noted that the rootworm injury was among the worst that he had ever seen.

Why are we experiencing another summer of rootworm problems in central, east-central, and northern Illinois?

Recall that in 2001, rootworm densities were very high across the northern one-half of the state. Egg laying was undoubtedly impressive in many of these counties. Because of the very mild winter, the overwintering success of the eggs was more than likely well above average. Although we had above-average precipitation this spring, by the time larvae hatched in many fields, the soils were no longer saturated. Larval establishment was quite good and occurred in fields with small root systems from the delayed planting. For much of July, precipitation has been sparse. Dry soils may have compromised the performance of soil insecticides, a group of products with overall very low water solubility. Soil insecticide performance cannot be linked exclusively to water-solubility properties of insecticides or rainfall amounts; however, an examination of product performance data since 1988 reveals that timely precipitation does improve the level of control afforded by many rootworm products. Unfortunately, since late June, many areas of east-central Illinois have not received any rainfall.

Next week we will evaluate the performance of many soil insecticide treatments that have been targeted at corn rootworms in our experimental trials located in DeKalb, Monmouth, and Urbana. We look forward to reporting the results of these trials in future

issues of the *Bulletin*. In addition to these efficacy trials, we intend to conduct some on-farm “root digs” during the first 2 weeks of August. We hope to survey for root injury from 300 first-year cornfields. Five to 10 roots will be evaluated per field from 100 fields in each of eastern, central, and western regions of Illinois. Results from this survey effort may reveal some differences in the level of first-year injury in each of these areas of the state. Testimonials from growers, dealers, and consultants suggest that the western corn rootworm variant continues to spread each year to the north and west from its epicenter in east-central Illinois. We hope to shed some light on this discussion later this summer.—*Mike Gray*

Corn Leaf Aphid Colonies Are Increasing in Size

A well-known pest during hot, dry seasons, the corn leaf aphid is making its presence known in some areas of the state. Population densities are high in some fields in central Illinois, and the potential exists for these pests to interfere with pollination. Corn leaf aphids are adding insult to injury in areas where growers have been protecting corn pollination from the depredations of Japanese beetles and western corn rootworm adults.

As most of you know, corn leaf aphids do not overwinter in Illinois. Winged aphids migrate north in early spring and initiate colonies of wingless aphids in the whorls of corn plants. If predators (e.g., lady beetles, lacewing larvae, syrphid fly maggots), parasitoids, and pathogens do not suppress corn leaf aphid populations, the colonies increase in size in the whorl. When tassels emerge, the colonies of aphids are more evident. As colonies continue to grow, corn leaf aphids can cover tassels, leaves, stalks, and ears. The aphids excrete honeydew, a sticky substance that often coats plant parts and promotes the growth of sooty mold. When tassels and silks are covered with aphids and honeydew, pollination is affected.

Let's review what we know about corn leaf aphids.

What to look for. Adult corn leaf aphids (winged and wingless) are about 1/16 inch in length and are dark blue-green. The cornicles (“tailpipes”), bases of cornicles, and legs are black. As the aphids age, the adults become almost completely dark green to black. You will find corn leaf aphids in different-sized colonies that started in the whorls and continue to increase in numbers on the upper parts of the corn plants if environmental conditions are favorable for the aphids.

Will corn leaf aphids affect yield?

When corn plants have adequate moisture, corn leaf aphids cause little damage. However, feeding by aphids during drought conditions exaggerates symptoms of drought stress. Feeding and excretions by corn leaf aphids may result in yellowing or reddening of leaves, stickiness of leaves and other plant parts, tassels that shed pollen poorly, tassels with dead sections, and barrenness or poor grain fill. If infestations of corn leaf aphids become severe, their feeding can cause death of plant tissue, even after pollination has been completed. However, this occurs only if aphid colonies continue to increase after pollination, particularly if the impact of natural enemies is not sufficient.

What are the treatment guidelines?

Like other species of aphids, corn leaf aphids have tremendous reproductive potential—they can complete 40 to 50 generations per year. So watch for the buildup of aphids in corn wherever a lack of moisture prevails. During the early tassel stage, if 50% of the plants have light to moderate infestations (50 to 400 aphids per plant) and plants are under drought stress, treatment may be warranted. After pollination, continue to watch the colonies of aphids to determine if their numbers are increasing or decreasing. And always look for beneficial insects, such as lady beetles, that can suppress aphid populations.

What insecticides are suggested for control of corn leaf aphids? If an insecticide treatment seems justified, consider *Capture 2EC at 2.1 to 6.4 ounces per acre, dimethoate (see product label for rate of application), *Lorsban 4E at 1 to 2 pints per acre, or *PennCap-M at 2 to 3 pints per acre. Products preceded with an asterisk are restricted for use by certified applicators. Please follow all label directions and pay attention to the precautions.—*Kevin Steffey*

Prepare for Second-Generation European Corn Borers

With all of the other concerns—whether about plant diseases, insects, or the weather—the second generation of European corn borers could sneak up on us. The stage has been set for a fairly significant second generation because many fields harbored sub-threshold levels of first-generation European corn borers. If the borers survived reasonably well through the first generation, densities of second-generation populations could be significant. However, at least one critical factor could limit second-generation European corn borers. The moths require moisture, and if they can't obtain it readily, mortality will occur. We should begin to learn soon if second-generation European corn borers are going to be problematic.

Ron Hines, senior research specialist with the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, diligently continues to report captures of moths in his traps. You can observe the captures of European corn borers and other moths at <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/publications/hines-report/>. His captures of European corn borers have been small and have increased slowly in Massac and Pulaski counties since July 2. Elsewhere we should begin to see European corn borer moths soon. Mike Roegge, Extension unit educator in crop systems in Quincy, found corn borer pupae readily on July 15 in a field in Adams County. The moths will emerge soon, congregate in “action sites” (e.g.,

grassy areas adjacent to cornfields), and mate. Shortly thereafter the females will begin to deposit eggs in cornfields.

Female European corn borer moths prefer to lay eggs on succulent, recently tasseled corn plants. In areas where corn was planted late, many fields will be in ideal condition for oviposition by corn borer females. During the silking and tasseling stage of corn growth, approximately 91% of the egg masses will be deposited on the basal two-thirds of the underside of the three leaves above the ear, on the ear husk, on the underside of the ear leaf, and on the three leaves below the ear. Egg laying during the second moth flight usually takes place over a 20-day period, with peak egg laying 10 days after the first eggs are deposited. Each female is capable of depositing an average of two egg masses per night for 10 nights. However, most of the egg masses are deposited during the first 6 nights after mating.

When scouting for second-generation European corn borers, look for egg masses, especially on the aforementioned plant parts. Eggs in an egg mass overlap like fish scales. Egg masses are somewhat flat and approximately 1/4 inch in diameter, although size may vary. Freshly deposited egg masses are creamy white but become translucent as they age. Within 24 hours of deposition, individual eggs appear to have a black center. This

stage is called the blackhead stage because the black centers are the dark brown to black head capsules of the larvae developing within.

First-instar European corn borers hatch in 3 to 7 days, depending on temperature and other weather conditions. Most of these small larvae move to the leaf axils and feed on sheath and collar tissue or on pollen that has accumulated in these sites. Some larvae move under the husks and feed on developing kernels. When the larvae reach the third instar, some will bore into the leaf midribs. By the fourth instar, most larvae borer into the stalks and ear shanks, although some will continue to feed within the ear.

If you have information about first spring moth flight, you can estimate the occurrence of stages or events for second-generation European corn borers. Even if you don't have information about initial moth flight in the spring, you can use accumulated degree-days to estimate these events and stages. Table 1 shows accumulated degree-days from initial capture of moths in the spring for the first occurrence of life stages and general activity of European corn borers. These estimates are based on mean daily temperatures for the time of year when the events usually occur. Therefore, unusually hot or cool weather may speed up or slow down development, respectively.

You should become familiar with the worksheet (see page 183) designed specifically for making decisions about managing second-generation European corn borers. Please understand that this worksheet includes information based on averages obtained over time and from different geographical locations. They are guidelines and are not set in stone. If you have experience or information that dictates different values in the worksheet, by all means, use them.

Special note: Some people are still finding European corn borer larvae feeding in corn whorls in fields of late-planted corn. These may be stragglers from the first generation, or they may represent the one-generation ecotype that usually occurs farther north (e.g., Canada). We have some evidence that the one-generation ecotype occurs in Illinois, and its peak usually occurs between the peaks of our first and second generations. These occurrences occasionally complicate the process of making management decisions. So, be aware of this situation as you continue to scout for corn borers. There's nothing like biological complexity among insects to make our situation more challenging.—Kevin Steffey

Table 1. Accumulated degree-days (developmental threshold of 50°F) from initial capture of moths in the spring to first occurrence of life stage or activity of second-generation European corn borers. (From *European Corn Borer: Ecology and Management*, NCR Publication No. 327, Iowa State University, Ames.)

<i>Accumulated degree-days</i>	<i>First occurrence of stage or event</i>	<i>Days to first occurrence^a</i>	<i>General activity</i>
0	First spring moth		
1,404	Egg hatch (first instar)	8.2	Pollen and leaf axil feeding
1,510	Second instar	4.1	Leaf axil feeding
1,627	Third instar	4.3	Sheath, collar, and midrib boring
1,759	Fourth instar	5.1	Stalk boring
1,984	Fifth instar	9.0	Stalk boring

^a Average number of days of development in most low-generation regions in order to reach the first occurrence of the stage or event since initiation of the previous stage that is listed, based on the mean daily temperature for the time of year when the previous life stage normally occurs.

Management Worksheet for Second-Generation European Corn Borer

<input type="text"/>	Egg masses found ¹	÷	<input type="text" value="0.91"/>	(if only ear zone sampled) =	<input type="text"/>	adjusted egg masses
<input type="text"/>	Adjusted egg masses	÷	<input type="text"/>	plants examined =	<input type="text"/>	egg masses/plant
<input type="text"/>	Egg masses/plant	×	<input type="text" value="4"/>	larvae/egg mass ² =	<input type="text"/>	larvae/plant
<input type="text"/>	Larvae/plant	×	<input type="text"/>	yield loss/larva ^{3,4} =	<input type="text"/>	yield loss
<input type="text"/>	Yield loss	×	<input type="text"/>	expected yield (bu/A) =	<input type="text"/>	loss (bu/A)
<input type="text"/>	Loss (bu/A)	-	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	price/bu =	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	loss/A
<input type="text" value="\$"/>	Loss/A	×	<input type="text" value="0.75"/>	control =	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	preventable loss/A
<input type="text" value="\$"/>	Preventable loss/A	-	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	cost of control/A =	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	gain (+) or loss (-) per acre if control applied

NOTES:

¹Counts may be cumulative if taken a few days apart.

²Four larvae/egg mass assumes 20% survival of 20 eggs/mass; increase if environmental conditions are favorable for borer survival.

³Record all percentages as decimals (for example, 20% = 0.2).

⁴Yield loss per borer per plant at two corn stages:

<i>Average number of egg masses</i>	<i>Pollen shed</i>	<i>Blister stage</i>
Two or fewer per plant	0.04	0.03
More than two per plant	0.03	0.02

As plants mature beyond the blister stage, the economic benefits of treatment rapidly decrease.

Status of Soybean Aphids

We haven't had much to report about soybean aphids this season, but they still bear watching. Kevin Black, with Growmark in Bloomington, reported that densities of soybean aphids in the Lake Geneva area in Wisconsin were high enough to warrant insecticide application recently. Populations of soybean aphids in Illinois have been small thus far in 2001, but as we have stated in the past, their numbers can build rapidly.

Steve Doench, agronomist with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, found soybean aphids in Bureau and Lee counties on July 10. He found 10 to 20 aphids per plant, mostly on new trifoliate

leaves. Gray Bretthauer, Extension unit educator in crop systems in Kendall County, indicated he had to look pretty hard to find the aphids. He usually finds them by looking for lady beetles and ants on the soybean plants. He reported that densities in his area this year are far lower than they have been during the past 2 years.

At this time, I can't offer much more than to say, "Keep scouting for soybean aphids." The hot, dry weather may be discouraging population growth. We'll keep our eyes on developments in the northern states (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) and share the information we gather.—

Kevin Steffey

Twospotted Spider Mites Continue to Threaten Soybeans

In previous issues of the *Bulletin*, we have encouraged you to keep your eyes open for buildups of twospotted spider mites in soybeans. These pests were first noted in fields in southern Illinois, but now they are showing up elsewhere. As the hot, dry weather has continued, the spider mites have been true to form, their densities increasing in size rather quickly. John Fulton, Extension unit leader in Logan County, reported that some soybean fields are being sprayed with miticides in his area, despite an inch of rain that fell on July 11.

As most people realize, infestations of twospotted spider mites are associated with prolonged hot, dry weather. Spider mites feed by inserting their needlelike mouthparts into leaf cells and extracting the liquid contents. They ingest a more nutritional diet when water is in short supply, resulting in greater fecundity of females (more eggs per female). In addition, hot, dry weather speeds up their development, so generations overlap and populations build quickly.

Stages of growth of twospotted spider mites include egg, larva, protonymph, deutonymph, and adult. Adults are extremely small (0.002 inch) and have 8 legs. They are green-yellow with two large, irregular-shaped black spots on each side of the body. Twospotted spider mites can complete their life cycle in 10 to 20 days, depending on weather conditions.

Twospotted spider mites overwinter as females in noncrop areas such as field margins. Spider mites disperse by crawling and by airborne movement. Their crawling from the weeds in field margins to soybean plants usually results in initial infestations along field edges. Initial symptoms of injury are yellow stippling of the leaves and stunting of the plants. As injury becomes more severe, leaves turn completely yellow and may turn brown, die, and drop from the plants. If densities of the mites continue to increase, the mites group up at the tips of leaflets and spin out strands of webbing that catch in the wind, which carries the mites to other areas of the field.

Management of twospotted spider mites in soybeans depends greatly on vigilance. At the first sign of injury caused by spider mites, you should examine the injured area to look for the mites. A quick way to check for mites is to hold a piece of paper under soybean leaves and tap the leaves gently to dislodge the mites. If mites are present, you will be able to see them moving across the paper. A good magnifying glass will enable you to see some of their morphological characteristics. Another telltale clue of a spider mite infestation is the presence

of webbing on the undersides of the leaves.

If you find spider mites only in field edges, spot treatments to prevent additional damage and to halt their movement may be justified. However, you should make certain that spider mites are not present throughout the field. Even healthy appearing plants may be supporting a few spider mites, and a few spider mites can become a lot of spider mites rather quickly. Dimethoate (check various labels for formulations and rates of application) and *Lorsban 4E at 1/2 to 1 pint per acre both have provided satisfactory control of spider mites in the past. Lorsban 4E is restricted for use by certified applicators. Please follow all label directions and pay attention to the precautions.—*Kevin Steffey*

A Few "Thumbnail Sketches" of Insect Occurrences

Following are a few insect situations that are worthy of note. More information will be provided as the situations develop.

- First-generation bean leaf beetles are showing up in soybean fields, especially in northern Illinois. Steve Doench, agronomist with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, found more than 120 bean leaf beetles per 20 sweeps in Bureau County on July 10. Defoliation was 10 to 15% at that time. Although we have not encountered the densities of bean leaf beetles that have been observed in Iowa in recent years, we need to remember that bean leaf beetles are capable of causing significant defoliation.
- According to several reports, grasshoppers and potato leafhoppers have "exploded" in some areas. Although numbers of grasshoppers cannot increase at this time of year, their activity certainly can become more evident in crop fields. Potato leafhopper numbers, on the other hand, can increase significantly during hot, dry weather. Watch for

grasshoppers in both corn and soybeans, and watch for potato leafhoppers in both alfalfa and soybeans.

- Reports of insects interfering with weed control have been common this year, and we continue to gather information. Mike Roegge, Extension unit educator in crop systems in Quincy, observed beetle larvae in waterhemp and smartweed in Adams County. Control of these weeds with Cobra, Distinct, Roundup, and First Rate was compromised. Matt Montgomery, Extension unit educator in crop systems in Springfield, found stalk borers and beetle larvae in ragweed in Sangamon County. Aaron Hager, with the assistance of some of our graduate students, found stalk borers in giant ragweed and beetle larvae in marehail.

- I first mentioned this issue in issue no. 12 (June 14, 2002) of the *Bulletin*. In issue no. 14 (June 28, 2002), I indicated that Mark Hoard, Extension educator in IPM in Mt. Vernon, had identified the larvae as members of the family Anthribidae (fungus beetles). We are continuing to gather specimens of these insects and will get more information about them in the near future.

Keep the reports coming. The information you provide to us can help others.—*Kevin Steffey*

REGIONAL REPORTS

Extension center educators, unit educators, and unit assistants in northern, west-central, east-central, and southern Illinois prepare regional reports to provide more localized insight into pest situations and crop conditions in Illinois. The reports will keep you up to date on situations in field and forage crops as they develop throughout the season. The regions have been defined broadly to include the agricultural statistics districts as designated by the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, with slight modifications:

- North (Northwest and Northeast districts, plus Stark and Marshall counties)
- West central (West and West Southwest districts, and Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Mason, Menard, and Logan counties from the Central district)
- East central (East and East Southeast districts [except Marion, Clay, Richland, and Lawrence counties], McLean, DeWitt, and Macon counties from the Central district)
- South (Southwest and Southeast districts, and Marion, Clay, Richland, and Lawrence counties from the East Southeast district)

We hope these reports will provide additional benefits for staying current as the season progresses.

Northern Illinois

Hot and dry conditions persist throughout the region. Small amounts of early-planted corn began to tassel over the weekend. Initial tassel emergence appears very uneven. Generally the corn crop has held up fairly well considering the lack of rainfall and high temperatures. However, rainfall is needed over the next 10 days as

more acreage begins to tassel. Reports continue to be received of high populations of Japanese beetles, and producers are encouraged to scout for potential silk clippings. Several reports have been received of severe rootworm larvae injury to corn roots in Carroll, Putnam, Grundy, Kane, and LaSalle counties. Rootworm larvae injury was reported in first-year cornfields in LaSalle and Kane counties.

Soybean leaf cupping has been evident for about 3 weeks, with minimal producer concern. Soybeans have been “growing out” of the condition very slowly.

As most second cutting of alfalfa is nearing completion, potato leafhopper populations still persist.

West-Central Illinois

The past week offered a welcome break from the heat, but only limited areas received desperately needed rainfall. Early-planted corn has been pollinating for some time and appears to be in good condition despite the lack of water, while corn that was either planted at a later date or was subject to prolonged ponding earlier this summer is showing signs of severe drought stress (i.e., delayed

development, and rolling and firing of lower leaves).

Early-planted soybeans seem to have found subsoil moisture and have grown rapidly the past few weeks. Some of the late-planted soybean fields are still waiting for their roots to reach the moisture. A significant portion of soybean fields are being resprayed because of the reduced efficacy of some herbicides.

Oat harvest has begun in some areas and is progressing rapidly. Insect pests do not appear to be of any consequence, but growers and industry personnel alike are monitoring grasshopper populations in pastures and field edges and scouting closely for signs of spider mite feeding in soybeans.

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