



# WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Vegetable Crops

**Vegetable Crop Insects** - *Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; [jwhalen@udel.edu](mailto:jwhalen@udel.edu)*

### Leafminers in Vegetable Crops

There have been reports of leaf miners attacking spring planted vegetable crops. There are a number of potential species that attack vegetables including the vegetable leafminer, serpentine leaf miner, spinach leafminer and beet leafminer. Leaf miners can be difficult to control and we have limited experience with control strategies in our area. The following links provide information on some of the potentially important species:

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/vegetable\\_leafminer.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/vegetable_leafminer.htm)

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/a\\_serpentine\\_leafminer.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/a_serpentine_leafminer.htm)

[http://www.umassvegetable.org/soil\\_crop\\_pest\\_mgt/insect\\_mgt/beet\\_leafminer.html](http://www.umassvegetable.org/soil_crop_pest_mgt/insect_mgt/beet_leafminer.html)

### Cabbage

Continue to scout for diamondback and imported cabbageworm larvae. Economic levels of diamondback larvae can be found. A treatment should be applied when 5% of the plants are infested and before larvae move to the hearts of the plants.

### Melons

Continue to scout all melons for aphids, cucumber beetles, and spider mites. Economic levels of aphids can be found and although beneficials (lady beetles and parasitized aphids)

can also be found they are not keeping up with the aphid populations due to the recent cooler temperatures. As a general guideline, a treatment should be applied for aphids when 20 percent of the plants are infested, with 5 aphids per leaf and before significant leaf curling occurs.

### Peppers

As soon as plants are set in the field, begin sampling for thrips and corn borers. On young plants, corn borer larvae can bore into the stems and petioles. In areas where peppers are isolated or corn is growing slowly, moths are often attracted to young pepper plants. Therefore, you should watch for corn borer moths laying eggs in all fields. As a general guideline, treatment may be needed if there is no corn in the area or you are using rye strips as windbreaks. You should also look for egg masses. At this time of year, thrips can damage peppers by vectoring tomato spotted wilt virus and by causing direct plant damage. Although there are no available thresholds, a treatment may be needed if you see populations increasing.

### Potatoes

Continue to sample for Colorado potato beetle adults and egg laying. A treatment should be considered for adults when you find 25 beetles per 50 plants and defoliation has reached the 10% level. Once larvae are detected, the threshold is 4 small larvae per plant or 1.5 large larvae per plant. Corn borer moths are being found in BLTs throughout the state; however, flights are still low. A corn borer spray may be needed 3-5 days after an increase in trap catches or when we reach 700-degree days (base

50). If you are scouting for infested terminals, the first treatment should be applied when 10% (fresh market) or 20-25% (processing) of the terminals are infested with small larvae.

### **Snap Beans**

All seedling stage fields should be scouted for leafhopper and thrips activity. The thrips threshold is 5-6 per leaflet and the leafhopper threshold is 5 per sweep. If both insects are present, the threshold for each should be reduced by  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Be sure to also watch for bean leaf beetle feeding. Damage appears as circular holes in leaves and we have seen significant damage in recent years on the earliest planted fields. As a general guideline, a treatment should be considered if you defoliation exceeds 20% prebloom.

### **Sweet Corn**

Continue to sample for cutworms and flea beetles. As a general guideline, treatments should be applied if you find 3% cut plants or 10% leaf feeding. In order to get an accurate estimate of flea beetle populations, fields should be scouted mid-day when beetles are active. A treatment will be needed if 5% of the plants are infested with beetles. Be sure to also watch for corn borer and corn earworm larvae in the whorls of the earliest planted fields. Although trap catches are still low, we are finding both in traps. A treatment should be applied if 15% of the plants are infested.

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### **Transplant Shock** - Gordon Johnson, *Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist*; [gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

The first seven days in May in 2010 saw temperatures in the high 80s and even some night temperatures in the low 70s in Delaware, and while windy, it was not excessively so. Then came the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> where average wind speeds doubled or tripled followed by low temperatures the middle of this week with scattered frost at night. These weather conditions illustrate the perils of setting out warm-season transplants in the beginning of May and to the need to take actions to avoid transplant shock.

Transplant shock will be evident by severe wilting, drying of leaves and stems, and, in severe cases, full plant collapse and death. This

should not be confused with diseases such as Pythium damping off or damage from seed corn maggot or other soil insects.

Many of our transplants come from southern producers this time of year and there is always the potential for transplant shock when they are removed from southern greenhouses with little or no hardening and then are shipped up to Delaware in unheated trucks, especially when temperatures drop in the 40s or below during transport. Locally grown transplants are also susceptible to transplant shock if taken directly from greenhouses to the field without a hardening off process. Even with good hardening off, 40 mph winds can quickly desiccate plants if set in the field, especially without adequate windbreaks.

As a reminder, warm season vegetable transplants vary in their ability to withstand sub-optimal conditions depending on how well they have been hardened off and their inherent ability to withstand stress. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash are better able to handle early season stresses than cantaloupes, watermelons, or peppers.

Soil temperatures are a key factor in the establishment of warm season crops. It is important to lay plastic well ahead of planting and to have adequate soil moisture to absorb and then retain heat. When soil temperatures are too cold, root growth is minimal in these crops and root function is impaired. Water uptake is limited by low root activity and new growth and rooting-in is slowed. Root zone insects and diseases can further stress transplants and reduce stands in cold conditions.

To avoid transplant shock, make sure transplants have well developed root systems. Transplants should easily pull from trays and have full root balls. This is critical to avoid transplant shock. Do not rush transplants with poorly developed roots into the field. Make sure transplants have been hardened off well by exposing them to outside conditions, eliminating fertilizer, and controlling watering well ahead of planting. Leggy plants will be a problem in stressful conditions and should not be used if at all possible. Leggy plants are more susceptible to damage in transplanting and wind damage after planting thus subjecting them to additional stress.

It is important to plant so that soil covers the root ball and that the root ball is not exposed to drying. However, for crops such as watermelons and cantaloupes, make sure that soil does not surround the stem. Deep planting in cold wet soils will result in additional stress on melons. Extra care should be taken during transplanting during stressful periods to reduce injury to plants, particularly to root balls. Damage to roots will reduce establishment success especially in melons, cucumbers, and squash. Train planting crews so that they do minimal damage to transplants. If plants are not pulling well from trays and do not have intact root balls, plants will not survive adverse weather.

Avoid planting if weather conditions are unfavorable. Look at extended forecasts and

plant on a warming trend where winds are not excessive. If heavy winds or very cold nights are expected, it is best to wait until more favorable weather returns. Often there is no earliness gained by planting in the stressful period; or gains are negated by stand losses and the need to replant areas. If weather conditions are unfavorable, you may also consider using row covers to protect plants.

Windbreaks are critical for early plantings. Use windbreaks between every bed for the early plantings and have windbreaks between multiple beds for later plantings. This year, many of our windbreaks offer minimal protection due to poor fall and winter growing conditions. Where windbreaks are not adequate, delay planting until favorable weather is in the forecast.

**Potato Disease Advisory #1 - May 13, 2010** - *Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist;*  
[bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu)

**Late blight Advisory**

This is the first report for 2010 in Weekly Crop Update. If you would like a FAX or email report please call 302-831-4865, or email [bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu) and request it.

We are using the E-WEATHER SERVICE from SkyBit, Inc. as we have in the past. The service determines specific requested weather parameters (temperature, relative humidity and rainfall) based on calculations of data from the nearest National Weather Service stations. This weather data is used in the WISDOM software program for predicting late blight and early blight and making spray recommendations. Our location this year is:

*Location: Art and Keith Wicks Farm, Rt 9, Little Creek, Kent County*  
*Greenrow: May 6*

Planting was delayed due to the wet weather early this spring so we are about a week behind last year when comparing greenrow on early planted potatoes. Disease severity values have been accumulating very slowly this year especially compared to last season. The threat of late blight from seed infection is low, but there was some in Maine last season. Be vigilant anyway, given this recent weather pattern. **The first late blight fungicide application is recommended once 18 Disease Severity Values (DSVs) accumulate from green row.** Green row occurred approximately on May 6, 2010. Please be vigilant and keep a look out for suspect infections on young plants coming from infected seed pieces! Growers opting not to use the forecast system should put the first late blight fungicide application on when the plants are 6 inches tall, and repeat every 7 days. There are numerous fungicides now labeled for late blight control; however, use of mancozeb (Manzate, Penncozeb, or Dithane) is still a very effective early season protective fungicide to use.

Date	DSV	Total DSV	Spray Recommendation
5/1 - 5/10	0	0	none
5/12	3	3	none

**Late Blight of Potato** - *Bob Mulrooney*,  
*Extension Plant Pathologist*; [bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu)

*Adapted for Delaware from an article written by  
Dr. Steve Rideout, VPI & SU*

### Causal Organism

Late blight of potato is caused by the airborne fungus (Oomycete) *Phytophthora infestans*. Late blight of potato is sporadic on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, but can be devastating if conditions favoring the disease persist. It has not been a production problem in Delaware for many years, although two fields last season had limited infections that were controlled. Disease is favored by moderate temperatures (60-80°F) with excessive rainfall or dews leading to high leaf moisture. Also of note, late blight of potato was the disease that caused the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s which led to the immigration or death of over 3 million Irish. The late blight pathogen can also parasitize tomatoes.

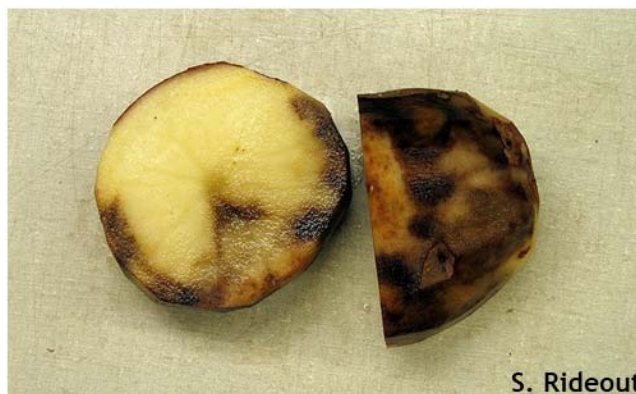
### Symptomology

Infected potato leaves show 'greasy' lesions that usually originate from the tip of the leaves (Figures 1). During periods of high moisture gray sporulation can be seen on infected leaves. If infection persists or becomes systemic, tubers may become discolored exhibiting black and greasy lesions (Figure 2). Infected tubers may also transmit the disease to subsequent crops if they are used as seed pieces. In severe infections, complete defoliation can occur if appropriate disease control measures are not employed.

### Control

Use certified seed pieces to ensure that you are not transmitting late blight. Prior to disease appearance, growers should utilize a protectant fungicide (i.e. chlorothalonil or mancozeb) once sprays are either deemed necessary by the WISDOM prediction model or if the disease is present within the region. Once the disease is either present on Delmarva, surrounding areas or within your fields, systemic fungicides should be used for disease suppression. Systemic fungicides recommended for late blight control include: Curzate, Forum, Gavel, Omega, Presidio, Previcur Flex, Ranman, Revus Top, Revus, Super

Tin, and Tanos. As always, follow pesticide labels for rates and usage.



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**Grower's Guide to Understanding the DMI or SI Fungicides (FRAC Code 3)** - *Andy Wyenandt*, *Assistant Extension Specialist in Vegetable Pathology, Rutgers University*; [wyenandt@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:wyenandt@aesop.rutgers.edu)

The DMI (DeMethylation Inhibitors) or Sterolbiosynthesis Inhibiting (SI) fungicides belong to FRAC code 3 which include the triazoles and imidazoles. Some of these fungicides are commonly known as Folicur (tebuconazole), Tilt (propiconazole), Rally (myclobutanil) and Procure (triflumizole).

SIs work by inhibiting the biosynthesis of ergosterol, which is a major component of the plasma membrane of certain fungi and is needed for fungal growth. Resistance by fungi to the DMI

fungicides (FRAC code 3) has been characterized and is generally known to be controlled by the accumulation of several independent mutations, or what is known as 'continuous selection' or 'shifting', in the fungus. Hence, in any given field population the sensitivity to the DMI fungicide by the fungus may range from extremely high (highly sensitive, i.e. will be controlled by fungicide) to moderate (partially sensitive) or low (mostly resistant to fungicide). This type of resistance is also known as quantitative resistance. With quantitative resistance there are different levels of resistance to the fungicide due to independent mutations, which is unlike the target mutations that occur in qualitative resistance associated with the QoI fungicides (FRAC code 11).

Because different levels of resistance to the FRAC code 3 fungicides may exist in the field, the fungal population may behave differently to different rates of the SI fungicide being applied. Therefore, it is suggested that using a higher rate of a FRAC code 3 fungicide, may improve control when lower rates have failed. For example, let's say that a powdery mildew population on pumpkin has 25% high, 50% moderate, and 25% low sensitivity to a DMI fungicide. If fungicide is applied at the low rate, only 25% of the population (highly sensitive) may be controlled. Whereas, if the high rate was used, 75% of the population may have been controlled. The main point here is that if low rates of FRAC code 3 fungicides have been used and control seems to be weakening, bumping to a higher rate may improve control.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine what proportion of the powdery mildew population is sensitive or not sensitive by looking at the field until you have begun spraying. The best advice, if you are using low rates and think those rates are not working like you feel they should, the rate should be bumped up to the high rate the next time the fungicide is sprayed, and if the high rate doesn't work it may be safe to assume the fungal population has grown mostly resistant. Importantly, if the high rate fails, whether you bumped up to a high rate or started with one, and control does not seem adequate **do not continue** to use the fungicide.

**Recognizing if and when fungicide chemistries are failing and when fungicide resistance is developing is critical to producing successful**

crops and why scouting on a regular basis, at least before and after each fungicide application, is important. Regular scouting can help reduce unwarranted and ineffective fungicide applications and help reduce wasted costs. Remember to always tank mix FRAC code 3 fungicides with protectant (M) fungicides (i.e. chlorothalonil, mancozeb) to help reduce the chances for fungicide resistance developing. Always apply FRAC code 3 fungicides according to label rates and resistance management recommendations and always be aware of the fungicide rates you are applying.

## Agronomic Crops

**Agronomic Crop Insects** - *Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; [jwhalen@udel.edu](mailto:jwhalen@udel.edu)*

### **Alfalfa**

In addition to checking for weevils feeding on re-growth, be sure to begin checking all fields for leafhoppers within one week of cutting. Spring planted fields should also be sampled since they are very susceptible to damage. Once the damage is found, yield loss has already occurred. The treatment thresholds are 20 per 100 sweeps on alfalfa 3 inches or less in height, 50 per 100 sweeps in 4-6 inch tall alfalfa and 100 per 100 sweeps in 7-11 inch tall alfalfa.

### **Field Corn**

Be sure to sample all fields for cutworms, slugs and true armyworm. For cutworms, fields should be sampled through the 5-leaf stage for damage. We are finding leaf feeding by cutworms as well as slug damage, so be sure you do not confuse the damage. If slugs are damaging plants, you will be able to see "slime trails" on the leaves. As a general guideline for cutworms, a treatment should be considered in 1-2 leaf stage corn if you find 3 percent cut plants or 10% leaf feeding. If cutworms are feeding below the soil surface, it will be important to treat as late in the day as possible, direct sprays to the base of the plants and use at least 30 gallons of water per acre.

With the recent cooler, wet weather in some areas of the state, we are starting to see an increase in slug damage. Newly hatched juvenile slugs can be found under residue in no-till fields.

The use of Deadline M-Ps (or other available metaldehyde baits) should be considered if the weather remains cool and wet and damage is increasing.

You should also sample no-till fields for true armyworms, especially where a grass cover or volunteer small grains were burned down at planting. As a general guideline, a treatment may be needed for armyworms if 25% of the plants are infested plants with larvae less than one inch long.

We have also seen an increase in bird damage that is sometimes confused with cutworm damage. You can distinguish bird damage from cutworm damage by the pattern in the field. Generally longer strips of damaged plants, plants pulled out of the ground, and/or plants cut high that are compressed at the base of the stems, all indicate bird damage. Although birds can cut plants off at the soil surface, they tend to pull plants out of the ground. In addition, if you look closely you will see "bird prints" near the missing plants or holes where birds have pulled plants out of the ground.

Lastly, there are a number of new transgenic corn traits that should be available to producers in 2011. The following link from Ron Hammond in Ohio which provides a good summary of these new traits:

<http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2010/2010-12/new-transgenic-corn-products>

### Small Grains

Continue to scout fields for cereal leaf beetles, armyworms and sawflies as well as aphids feeding in the heads of small grains. With the recent cooler weather, the beneficials may not help to reduce aphid populations. Also, with the recent weather patterns, the hatch of armyworm larvae will be staggered -i.e. there will be large and small larvae in fields. It is important that you scout fields on a weekly basis until harvest for armyworm and sawfly larvae. Although armyworm can attack both wheat and barley, they can quickly cause significant losses in barley. Since populations of all of these insects vary from field to field, fields should be scouted to determine if economic levels are present. As a general guideline, if multiple insects are present, the threshold for each insect should be reduced by one third.

### Soybeans

In full season no-till soybeans as well as in conventional fields where a cover is worked under before planting, seed corn maggot can be a potential problem. These situations are attractive to egg laying flies. Control options are limited to the commercial applied seed treatments (Cruiser/Cruiser MAXX, Gaucho/Trilex 6000 and Innovate) and one hopper box material containing permethrin (<http://www.tracechemicals.com/trace/labels/KernelGuardSupremelabel.pdf>). Labels state early season protection against injury by seed corn maggot.

In recent years, slugs have also been a significant problem in no-till soybean fields. We can find small slugs that have recently hatched under surface residue. Slug damage can be severe on soybeans if slugs are actively feeding when germination occurs since the soybean plant's growing point is within the cotyledons as they emerge. If slugs are actively feeding when germination occurs, they can feed on the cotyledons and cause death of the soybean plant. Therefore, compared to corn, it can be difficult to time an application of a bait treatment. Fields should be scouted and tillage considered if you can easily find slugs under the surface trash and weather remains cool and wet. This option has worked in recent years but only if there is a period of time between tillage and planting. In addition, if slug numbers are high, it may not get enough of them but overall it should help. Another option might be planting later into warm soils to promote rapid early growth and help young plants outgrow the slug pressure. Delayed planting can help if the weather turns warm and dry; however, this option was not very effective during the 2009 season since the weather remained cool and wet throughout the summer. Unfortunately, we still have a lot to learn about slug management in soybeans.

As the earliest beans emerge, you should also watch for bean leaf beetles and grasshoppers. Bean leaf beetle adults feed on the cotyledons and first true leaves. In recent years, bean leaf beetle populations have been heavier in the Mid-Atlantic on the earliest planted beans. Damage appears as scooped out pits on the cotyledons and leaf feeding appears as distinctive, almost circular holes, which are scattered over the leaf. Even though the leaf feeding by first-generation

beetles on soybean leaves has seldom resulted in economic yield losses, fields should be scouted carefully to assess the damage. In areas of the state where bean pod mottle has been identified, it is the overwintering beetle that vectors the virus. The second-generation feeding on pods in late summer can cause significant damage. There are numerous treatment guidelines available. However, as a general guideline, a treatment may be needed if you observe a 20 - 25% stand reduction and/or 2 beetles per plant from cotyledon to the second trifoliolate stages. The Iowa State economic threshold for cotyledon stage is four beetles per plant. Once plants reach the V1 and V2 stages, their thresholds increase to 6.2 (V1 stage) and 9.8 (V2 stage) beetles/plant. These treatment thresholds should be reduced if virus is present or you suspected virus the previous season.

As far as the commercial applied seed treatments (Cruiser/Cruiser MAX, Gaucho/Trilex 6000 and Innovate), they are labeled to provide early protection against injury from bean leaf beetle. However, these seed treatments will not limit later population growth in mid to late summer. For growers who choose to control overwintering bean leaf beetles to limit virus transmission, information from the Midwest indicated that an early season foliar spray after plant emergence, followed by a second spray in July for the first generation beetles might be tried. Because seed treatments will offer control of the overwintered beetles and reduce feeding injury, growers might want to use seed treatments to replace the early season foliar spray.

As far as grasshoppers, in general, the treatment threshold for grasshoppers is 1 per sweep and 30% defoliation. Multiple applications are often needed for grasshopper control.

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### **Fusarium Head Blight Forecast and Alert System** - *Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; [bobmul@udel.edu](mailto:bobmul@udel.edu)*

The risk of **Fusarium head blight or scab** is low for the next several days. There is some rainfall in the forecast for Friday and early next week with warmer temperatures, but until now there has not been enough moisture to produce spores for infection. Most of the wheat by next week

should be past flowering and therefore not at risk unless it is very late. There are scattered reports of low levels of leaf rust on Delmarva so scouting should continue.

I just became aware that wheat growers can sign up for scab alerts. See the following information:

Producers, crop consultants, grain processors and others can sign up for the alerts by going to the following web site address: [http://scabusa.org/fhb\\_alert.php](http://scabusa.org/fhb_alert.php). The alerts will be sent out to one's cell phone or email, depending upon the user's preference. Frequency and timing of alerts will depend upon a given area's risk for severe scab - which can vary widely, depending on environmental conditions.

The purpose of the alert system, is to give growers and affiliated industry personnel better advanced notice of potential outbreaks and the risk of scab in their area, thus allowing for timely treatment of fields with fungicides. "We are aware that many farmers do not have easy or convenient access to the Internet, but most of them carry a cell phone," says Dave Van Sanford, USWBSI co-chair. "We wanted a system that would send an alert to their cell phone, prompting them to take an appropriate action - such as going to the USWBSI website, checking with their county agent, chemical dealer or consultant, or simply looking at their crop to check its stage of development. Our hope is that the alerts will lead to some action that will reduce the impact of head scab on the crop."

The alert system is tied in with the Fusarium Head Blight Risk Assessment Tool hosted by Pennsylvania State University, Kansas State University, Ohio State University and the U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. This web site - [www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool\\_2010.html](http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool_2010.html) - provides detailed, daily updated information on scab risk in various U.S. small grain production regions. The FHB Assessment Tool is supplemented by commentaries from various state university plant disease specialists regarding environmental conditions and the presence of scab (or lack thereof) in their state. These commentaries provide the content behind the FHB alerts.

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**Grain Marketing Highlights** - Carl German,  
*Extension Crops Marketing Specialist;*  
[clgerman@udel.edu](mailto:clgerman@udel.edu)

### USDA's May Supply/Demand Report Highlights

The May report continued the tabulations and projections for '09/'10 and included the first official projection of U.S. and world production for the 2010/2011 marketing year. Data from the March 31 planting intentions report and revised World Outlook Board yield estimates were used to compile the May projections. What did we learn from the release of USDA's May Supply and Demand report? First, ending stock estimates for the current marketing year were reduced for corn, and unchanged from a month ago for soybeans and wheat. Ending stocks for '09/'10 U.S. corn were projected at 1.736 billion bushels, 161 million bushels less than a month ago. U.S. ending stocks for soybeans remain unchanged at 190 million bushels, and unchanged for all wheat at 950 million bushels. U.S. ending stock estimates for the 2010/2011 marketing year were corn at 1.818 billion bushels, soybeans at 365 million bushels, and all wheat at 997 million bushels.

World ending stock estimates for the '09/'10 marketing year for corn were estimated at 147.04 million metric tons, soybeans at 63.76 MMT, and all wheat at 193.37 MMT. World ending stock estimates for the 2010/2011 marketing year were projected at 154.21 million metric tons for corn, 66.09 MMT for soybeans, and 198.09 MMT for all wheat.

Brazilian soybean production for the '09/'10 marketing year is now projected at 68 MMT, .5 MMT increase from last month's estimate. The estimate for Argentine soybean production was left unchanged at 54 MMT. Brazilian corn production and Argentine corn production were left unchanged from last month, estimated at 53.5 and 21.0 MMT, respectively.

### Market Strategy

As of May 9, U.S. corn planting was reported to be 81 percent complete, as compared to the five year average of 62 percent. The corn crop was reported as 39 percent emerged as compared to 21 percent for the five year average. U.S. soybeans were reported as 30 percent planted, compared to the average of 19 percent, and 7 percent emerged, also ahead of the average. Two-thirds of the spring wheat crop was planted,

in line with the average, while almost 40 percent had emerged, as compared to the five year average of 28 percent. For winter wheat, 40 percent was reported as headed as compared to the average of 43 percent. Crop conditions for winter wheat were reported as in line with the average and much better than last year.

The weekly export sales report, released this morning, was mixed with corn exports, now projected at 1.950 billion bushels reported as neutral to bullish, soybean exports starting to lag while still running ahead of USDA's revised projection of 1.455 billion bushels, and wheat exports reported at levels that might not achieve USDA's projection of 865 million bushels for the '09/'10 marketing year.

Currently, Dec '10 corn futures are trading at \$3.92; Nov '10 soybean futures at \$9.37; with July '10 SRW wheat at \$4.91 per bushel. Price direction for the 2010 row crop production year now becomes almost entirely dependent upon weather developments throughout the growing season.

For technical assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist.

## General

### USDA Encourages Landowners to Sign Up Now for Conservation Stewardship Program

DOVER, Del., May 11, 2010 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting State Conservationist Jay Mar recently announced that Delaware landowners are encouraged to apply for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial forestland. **The deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is June 11, 2010.**

"As a result of NRCS assistance, many private landowners in Delaware have voluntarily applied conservation practices with benefits to water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat and more," said Mar. "CSP recognizes these producers and



provides them with additional resources to move to the next level of natural resource conservation.”

Eligible producers may submit an application to enroll eligible land in CSP on a continuous basis. Producers are encouraged to apply for CSP now to ensure their applications will be considered during the next funding and ranking period. However, they can make their final decision to participate in the program once the CSP final rule is issued. The final rule will establish the policies and procedures for the program.

CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices. CSP is offered in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off application dates for ranking periods. Enrollment is capped nationally at 12.7 million acres per year.

Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. The checklist and additional information on CSP are available from local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices or on the NRCS Web site at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html).

For more information about other NRCS programs and services in Delaware, visit [www.de.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.de.nrcs.usda.gov) or call Jayme Arthurs, (302) 678-4191 or Dastina Johnson, (302) 678-4179.

## Announcements

### **Agronomic Crops Twilight Tailgate Session**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 6:00-8:00 p.m.

UD Cooperative Extension Research and Demonstration Area

(3/4 mile east of Armstrong Corner, on Marl Pit Rd. – Road 429, Middletown)

Join your fellow producers and the UD Extension team for an overview of University of Delaware’s Demonstration Plots at the Marl Pit Road Demonstration Site. We’ll cover highlights on grain

marketing, nutrient management and pest management, as well.

We will apply for DE Pesticide and Nutrient Management re-certification credits and Certified Crop Advisor credits.

This meeting is free and everyone interested in attending is welcome.

**Bring a tailgate or a lawn chair.**

**To register, request more information or require special needs assistance for this meeting, please call our office in advance at (302) 831-2506. Please call to register by May 25.**

See you there!

Anna Stoops, New Castle County Extension Agricultural Extension Agent

*It is the policy of the Delaware Cooperative Extension System that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, age or national origin.*

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### **Looking for an Enterprising Vegetable Grower**

We have the land! Do you have the passion?

We have created one of the most exciting new communities ever to be built in New Castle County just north of Middletown, Delaware on 1,600 acres. There are 3,000 homes planned on our land and approximately 2,000 homes planned on neighboring lands. We would like to incorporate locally grown produce as an integral part of our new community—The Village of Bayberry. We have the land, an ag well, and the perfect location for an entrepreneurial farmer who loves growing and selling fresh produce. A new farm stand building with plenty of parking will be built by us and would be included in the lease. There is presently no competition in the area and the land is available immediately.

If interested, please call Jeff Seemans, RLA, at 302-254-0100, X214, or email him at [JSEEMANS@BLENHEIMHOMES.COM](mailto:JSEEMANS@BLENHEIMHOMES.COM). Lease terms are negotiable as is amount of land.

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## Soybean Cyst Nematode Workshop

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a widespread and serious pest of soybeans on Delmarva. First discovered in the fall of 1979 it has been causing increased problems for growers in recent years. This workshop will cover some basics about the biology of SCN and its management. The results of the recent DSB sponsored survey of SCN will also be addressed. The workshop will also include visiting a small research plot to see SCN first hand and discuss symptoms, diagnosing SCN from root samples, and proper soil testing procedures. Participants will also observe a demonstration on how SCN are extracted from soil samples and how eggs are extracted from cysts. The workshop is suggested for agricultural professionals on Delmarva who advise soybean growers and growers who want to know more about this important pest.

The date for the workshop is **Tuesday, August 3, 2010** at the Carvel Research and Education Center near Georgetown, DE. Hold the date if you are interested. The program will likely run from 8:30 until noon and include lunch. Pesticide recertification credits and CCA credits in pest management will be offered for attendees. More information will follow.

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### 2010 Strawberry Twilight Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Wye Research and Education Center  
211 Farm Lane  
Queenstown, MD

Please join us for an evening in the strawberry field.

- Hear University and USDA fruit specialists discuss strawberry production systems.
- Interact with specialists to discuss concerns you may have in your strawberry operation.
- Hear the details of a new MDA specialty crop grant that will begin this summer at WREC producing out-of-season blueberry, bramble, and strawberries.

What you will see:

- Strawberry production in High Tunnels (4 varieties and several USDA advanced selections)
- Plant-based bio-fumigation trial used in the annual plasticulture system
- Early and late planted Chandlers managed in the Fall with and without floating row covers

Desserts will be available following the meeting.

*No pre-registration required, however, if you need special assistance in order to attend the program, please call Debby Dant 410-827-8056 X115, no later than May 12, 2010.*

\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*\*

THIS YEAR'S TWILIGHT WILL BE HELD IN THE STRAWBERRY FIELD (RATHER THAN IN THE FARM SHOP). PLEASE FOLLOW POSTED SIGNS, WHICH WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE PROPER FIELD AND PARKING AREA.

For program information, contact: Michael Newell, [mnewell@umd.edu](mailto:mnewell@umd.edu) or (410) 827-7388

Equal opportunity employer and equal access programs.

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### Pasture Walk: Weed Control and Keeping Your Grass Seedlings Alive!

Friday, May 21, 2010 10:00 a.m. - noon  
David Greene Farm  
2014 White Hall Road  
White Hall, MD 21161

Most grass seedlings do come up, and as the old parable implies, different things happen to them. The first months of management are just as important as the initial seeding. The Maryland Grazers Network is offering an in-field follow-up for those who planted in early April. We will see how well the stand has germinated and discuss the next steps to help get this planting fully established.

We will spend some time on simple weed identification and will discuss chemical weed control and organic alternatives and how to determine if you have a weed problem that will threaten your grass planting. We also will discuss the proper time to return animals to a pasture and what fertilizer treatments are appropriate for what is planted. Time also will be spent discussing management techniques, such as rope wicking weeds and when that might be necessary and practical. We also will look at management of perennial vs. annual weeds in a pasture.

We encourage all who want to learn how to give your seedling grass the best chance to establish to attend.

The pasture walk will be held at the David Greene sheep farm in Baltimore County, Maryland.

The discussions will cover all types of forage plantings for beef, sheep, horses, and goats. We will have follow-up meetings to talk about on-going establishment treatment needs. We plan to have these at the site about once a month. We will announce follow-up dates at the event.

*Please call (443) 482-2922 to register.*

To get to the meeting, from the Baltimore Beltway take 81 North to exit 31 North onto Middletown Road East towards Parkton. Then take a right on MD 45 (South on York Road). Next turn left onto Weisburg Road; turn right to stay on Weisburg Road. Then turn left onto White Hall Road. Travel about 4 minutes to the David Greene Farm at 2014 White Hall Road, White Hall, MD 21161.

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### Livestock Pasture Walk

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
DSU, Hickory Hill Research Farm  
Route 42, West of Cheswold, DE

Come learn techniques for good pasture management for livestock!

Experts will be on hand from the University of Delaware, Delaware State University and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to answer your questions!

Please bring a folding chair.

NM and CCA credits will be available.

This meeting is free and everyone interested in attending is welcome.

*To register, request more information or if you require special needs assistance for this meeting, please call our office in advance at (302) 831-2506. Call to register by June 7.*

See you there!

Anna Stoops  
NCC Extension, Agricultural Extension Agent

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### Pea Twilight Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2010 6:00 p.m.  
Carvel Research and Education Center  
16483 County Seat Highway  
Georgetown, DE 19947

Meeting will include a tour of the late pea variety trial and preliminary results from the early pea trial. UD Extension specialists will be on hand to answer any questions.

There will be refreshments following the tour.

*Please call Emmalea Ernest at (302)856-7303 by Monday, June 7 if you plan to attend.*

## Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of May 6 to May 12, 2010

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

### Rainfall:

0.12 inch: May 11

0.06 inch: May 12

### Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 86°F on May 6 to 59°F on May 11.

Lows ranged from 62°F on May 6 to 35°F on May 11.

### Soil Temperature:

66.6°F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at [http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly\\_retrieval.html](http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly_retrieval.html) and <http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

*Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Associate - Vegetable Crops*

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