



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*

In many locations, trap catches still remain high. Therefore, the potential for corn earworm and corn borer pressure remains high in fall vegetable crops statewide. You will need to scout fields at least twice a week as well as check local trap catches at <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestbit.html> or call the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 1-800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851).

Cabbage

Continue to sample for cabbage looper, diamondback larvae, beet armyworm, fall armyworm and Harlequin bug. Although the pyrethroids will provide control of Harlequin bugs they are not effective on diamondback or beet armyworm in our area. So be sure to scout and select controls options based on the complex of insects present in the field.

Lima Beans

Continue to scout for stink bugs, lygus bugs, soybean loopers, beet armyworm and corn earworm. Moths can still be found laying eggs in fields. Be sure to sample for corn earworm larvae as soon as pin pods are present. A treatment will be needed if you find one corn earworm larvae per 6 ft-of-row. If soybean loopers become a problem this year, remember that they are a migratory pest, difficult to

control and pyrethroid resistance has been documented in states to our south. Belt SC or Lannate LV are labeled for looper control. Be sure check the label for rates, restrictions (including plant back restrictions) and days from last application to harvest.

Peppers

At this time of year, corn borer, corn earworm, beet armyworm and fall armyworm are all potential problems in peppers. So be sure to select the material that will control the complex of insects present in the field. Be sure to check local moth catches in your area by calling the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 1-800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851) or checking our webpage at <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestbit.html>. We continue to see aphid populations increasing, especially in fields where pyrethroids have been used on a weekly basis. Labeled materials are only effective if applied before populations explode.

Snap Beans

With the high trap catches, you will need to consider a treatment for both corn borer and corn earworm. You should also watch for beet armyworms and soybean loopers. Sprays are needed at the bud and pin stages on processing beans for worm control. With the diversity of worm pest that may be present in fields, be sure to scout fields and select materials that will control the complex of insects present. For the most recent trap catches in your area and to help decide on the spray interval between the

pin stage and harvest for ECB control in processing snap beans, you will need to call the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 1-800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851) or check our website <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestbit.html> and <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/thresh/snapbeanecbthresh.html>.

We have also observed an increase in whitefly populations. Be sure to check the Vegetable Crop Recommendations for materials labeled for whitefly control on snap beans:

<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/vegprogram/pdf/Beans.pdf>.

Spinach

Continue to watch for webworms and beet armyworms. Both moths are active at this time and controls need to be applied when worms are small and before they have moved deep into the hearts of the plants. We are seeing an increase in beet armyworm populations being found in vegetable crops - so it will also be important to select a material that will provide beet armyworm control. As a reminder, the pyrethroids have not provided effective beet armyworm control in past years. It also appears that webworm populations may be heavier than normal (typical during hot, dry seasons) so it is important to apply controls before any webbing occurs. Remember that both insects can produce webbing on the plants. Generally, at least 2 applications are needed to achieve control of webworms and beet armyworm, especially under heavy pressure.

Sweet Corn

With the continued high corn earworm trap catches, be sure that a spray is applied as soon as ear shanks are visible on plants (before you see any silk). If fall armyworms are present in the whorl, you will need multiple whorl sprays for this insect before the ear shank spray to achieve effective control and to prevent larvae from dropping into the ear zone. Once fields are silking, you will need to check both blacklight and pheromone trap catches for silk spray schedules since the spray schedules can quickly change. Go to

<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/IPM/traps/latestbit.html> or call the Crop Pest Hotline (in state: 1-

800-345-7544; out of state: 302-831-8851). Be sure to check all labels for days to harvest and maximum amount allowed per acre.

Vegetable Disease Update - *Bob Mulrooney*,
Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

With the impending hurricane we will probably see large amounts of rainfall. For vine crops fields with a history of *Phytophthora* fruit rot it will mean more *Phytophthora* fruit rot if any marketable watermelon or cantaloupe remain but it will really threaten the pumpkin crop. No fungicide will protect fruit from fruit rot if we get huge amounts of rainfall. Standing water in the fields will be the biggest indicator of possible fruit rot damage. There would be some benefit to protecting foliage with fungicides before the storm arrives if there is time and there is no history of *Phytophthora* fruit rot. This would be true for many vegetables including vine crops, tomatoes, and others. If there is no *Phytophthora* fruit rot present in a pumpkin field, fungicides such as Presidio, Ranman, Revus or Forum plus a fixed copper could be considered to suppress *Phytophthora* fruit rot, if *Phytophthora* spores moving in water from other fields should be introduced. Fruit have to be covered for the materials to have a hope of having an effect.

For other vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and other fruiting vegetables that may be planted for late harvest fungicide applications should be made before the rains arrive not after. Prevention is the key to control. If the label allows, adjuvants that help products adhere to the plants should be considered. Spreader-stickers would be encouraged if the crop and label warrant it.

In crops where cottony leak caused by *Pythium* could cause crop loss, such as snapbeans and lima beans, application of one of the phosphonate fungicides such as ProPhyt or Phostrol would be suggested at maximum rates, or Ridomil Gold/Copper on snapbeans only. There is a 24c label for Ridomil Gold/Copper (2.0 lbs/A) in DE, MD and VA for cottony leak on snapbeans. Lima bean growers will want to scout carefully once this storm clears out for downy

mildew. Wet soil and cool temperatures will favor downy mildew infection.

Cucurbit downy mildew is present on pumpkin now in the sentinel plot in Newark in New Castle County. This is the first report of downy mildew on pumpkin. It has probably been there for several days. Growers should continue to apply fungicides for leaf diseases including downy mildew.

Food Safety and Flooded Vegetable Fields -

Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

In produce fields that are flooded, another consideration for growers is food safety. The following is a good article on the subject from Steve Reiners at Cornell University.

FLOODS AND FOOD SAFETY

There are two types of flooding. The first is more typical and occurs after a heavy downpour when fields become saturated and water pools on the soil surface. This type of flooding can reduce yields and even kill plants but usually will not result in contamination of produce with human pathogens.

The second type of flooding is more severe and seen less often. Standing water in fields that is runoff from stream/river overflows will more likely be contaminated with human pathogens. Unless flooding was light and there is no danger of bacterial contamination from floodwater, do not use fruits and vegetables that were ready for harvest at the time of flooding. Some fruits and vegetables are more susceptible than others to bacterial contamination.

Leafy vegetables (such as lettuce, cabbage, mustard, kale, collards, spinach, and Swiss chard) along with strawberries are more likely to be contaminated. Silt and other contaminants may be imbedded in the leaves, petioles, stems, or other natural openings of fleshy structures and can be difficult to remove. Do not use if mature when flooded.

Root, bulb, and tuber crops such as beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, onions, and potatoes are less susceptible to bacterial contamination.

Produce with a protected fruit or impervious outer skin such as peas, melons, eggplant, sweet corn, or winter squash may be contaminated on the surface.

It is extremely important that produce be properly washed to reduce contamination.

To control postharvest losses, it is recommended that produce be washed in chlorinated water before storage or shipping (see table below). The wash temperature should be about 10° F warmer than the produce temperature to ensure that decay organisms are not sucked into the tissue. Since chlorine is most effective at a slightly acidic pH, it is important that wash water is buffered to adjust the pH to between 6 and 7.

Chlorine in the wash water is often inactivated when the wash water becomes dirty. Use filtering devices to remove soil and organic material, and check the chlorine concentration often. Produce should be subjected to the chlorinated wash from one to ten minutes. After it is removed, allow it to drain for several minutes before packing. NOTE: Leafy vegetables at or near harvest that were flooded with stream/river overflows should not be harvested or consumed. Chlorinated wash water will not eliminate likely human pathogens on their surface.

Amount of sodium hypochlorite to add to wash water for 50-150 PPM dilution.

Target ppm	ml/L	tsp/5 gal	cup/50 gal
Sodium Hypochlorite, 5.25%			
50	1.0	3.66	0.75
75	1.4	5.5	1
100	1.9	7.25	1.5
125	2.4	9	2
150	2.9	11	2.25
Sodium Hypochlorite, 12.75%			
50	0.4	1.5	0.33
75	0.6	2.25	0.5
100	0.8	3	0.66
125	1.0	3.75	0.8
150	1.2	4.5	1

Flooding and Vegetables - Gordon Johnson,
Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist;
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There is still considerable acreage of watermelons, sweet corn, pumpkins, beans, cabbage, potatoes, and other fresh market vegetable crops in the field on Delmarva. On the processing side, the majority of lima beans have yet to be harvested and there are significant acres of pickles, snap beans, and other processing crops in the field. Many of these crops will be at risk in the coming days due to hurricane Irene.

A late summer hurricane or tropical storm with both wind damage and excess rain can cause major issues in vegetable crops, most notably:

- Damage due to flooded soils in all vegetable crops
- Increased disease incidence in all vegetable crops
- Lodging damage in crops like sweet corn

Other articles will address diseases in with excess rainfall. I will focus on flooding effects on the physiology of vegetable plants.

Flooded and Waterlogged Soils

In flooded soils, the oxygen concentration drops to near zero within 24 hours because water replaces most of air in the soil pore space. Oxygen diffuses much more slowly in water filled pores than in open pores. Roots need oxygen to respire and have normal cell activity. When any remaining oxygen is used up by the roots in flooded or waterlogged soils, they will cease to function normally. Therefore, mineral nutrient uptake and water uptake are reduced or stopped in flooded conditions (plants will often wilt in flooded conditions because roots have shut down). There is also a buildup of ethylene in flooded soils, the plant hormone that in excess amounts can cause leaf drop and premature senescence.

In general, if flooding or waterlogging lasts for less than 48 hours, most vegetable crops can recover. Longer periods will lead to high amounts of root death and lower chances of recovery.

While there has not been much research on flooding effects on vegetables, the following are some physiological effects that have been documented:

- Oxygen starvation in root crops such as potatoes will lead to cell death in tubers and storage roots. This will appear as dark or discolored areas in the tubers or roots. In carrots and other crops where the tap root is harvested, the tap root will often die leading to the formation of unmarketable fibrous roots.
- Lack of root function and movement of water and calcium in the plant will lead to calcium related disorders in plants; most notably you will have a higher incidence of blossom end rot in tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, and several other susceptible crops.
- Leaching and denitrification losses of nitrogen and limited nitrogen uptake in flooded soils will lead to nitrogen deficiencies across most vegetable crops.
- In bean crops, flooding or waterlogging has shown to decrease flower production and increase flower and young fruit abscission or abortion.
- Ethylene buildup in saturated soil conditions can cause leaf drop, flower drop, fruit drop, or early plant decline in many vegetable crops.

Recovering from Flooding or Waterlogging

The most important thing that you can do to aid in vegetable crop recovery after floods or waterlogging is to open up the soil by cultivating (in crops that still small enough to be cultivated) as soon as you can get back into the field. This allows for oxygen to enter the soil more rapidly. Nutritionally, sidedress with 50 lbs of N where possible.

In fields that are still wet, consider foliar applications of nutrients. According to Steve Rieners at Cornell "Use a low salt liquid fertilizer to supply 4 to 5 lb nitrogen, 1 lb phosphate (P_2O_5) and 1 lb potash (K_2O) per acre. Since nitrogen is the key nutrient to supply, spraying with urea ammonium nitrate (28 % N solution) alone can be helpful. These can be sprayed by aerial or ground application. Use 5 to 20 gallons of water per acre. The higher gallons per acre

generally provide better coverage”. As with all foliar applications, keep total salt concentrations to less than 3% solutions to avoid foliage burn.

Nitrogen Fertilization After Flooding - *Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu*

With heavy rain expected this weekend, flooding can be expected in some vegetable fields. In addition to nitrate leaching, there is potential for significant denitrification losses in saturated soils.

In fields that have been waterlogged for several days, nitrogen fertilization will be critical to helping plants recover.

Root growth and function is impaired by flooding and therefore nitrogen uptake will be limited. N levels in soils will be low due to leaching and denitrification. Nitrogen should be applied as soon as soils have drained. Foliar N fertilization may be of great benefit after flooding as root systems recover.

In flooding studies at the University of Florida by Yuncong Li, Renuka Rao and Stewart Reed, they tested several N fertilizers both as dry applications and foliar applications for their effectiveness in recovering flood-damaged vegetable crops and found that potassium nitrate performed the best, urea the second best, and calcium nitrate the third best. Liquid urea-ammonium nitrate solutions should perform similarly to urea as a foliar application and as a sidedressing where crops are still small enough to get equipment through. Limit foliar applications to less than 3% total salt solutions. In plasticulture vegetables that have been flooded, foliar applications will be necessary until the beds have dried out enough to allow for fertigation through the drip system.

Fruit

Sure Looks Like Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Damage - But It Isn't - *Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland; jbrust@umd.edu*

Over the last few weeks growers have given me damaged pears that at the time I said looked like brown marmorated stink bug damage. Pears on the outside had pits in them where it looked like the bug had fed at one time (Photo 1). When the fruit is cut open there is a brown spot deep inside the pear that looks like brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) feeding damage (Photo 2). But this spot differs from BMSB feeding in a couple of ways. First it is extremely hard, it is almost impossible to get a knife through it. Almost all of the BMSB damaged pears and apples and other fruit where I have seen a brown spot may be pithy or mealy or firm, but it has never been really hard. Second no yeast was found associated with the spot. In almost every case of BMSB feeding resulting in a dark spot in the fruit we have found yeast. And thirdly there was no stylet wound found in the damaged areas. I have found that if the cut is made into the fruit to the brown spot that the brown spot will then swell in a short time and stick up from the surface of the cut fruit (Photo 2).

The most likely cause of the damaged pear fruit appears to be Stony Pit disease, but even this we are not entirely sure. One problem is that the causal agent of Pear Stony Pit has yet to be isolated, but it can be transmitted by grafting and therefore a virus seems to be the most likely suspect, but no one knows for sure. Insect vectors or infected seed have not been documented as transmission factors for the virus.

The symptoms usually start about three weeks after petal fall, when dark green spots form on the fruit. The areas around these spots continue to grow, but the spots themselves do not. This results in misshapen fruit with pits (Photo 1). Pits often become necrotic and the fruit beneath becomes hardened (Photo 2). If fruit is heavily pitted it may become so hard that it is difficult to cut with a knife. Cracking of the bark,

stunting of trees and chlorotic vein-banding have also been reported. One of the very odd things about this “disease” is that symptoms on fruit vary from season to season as well as severity. Trees that show symptoms one year may have no pitted fruit the following years. This type of scenario resembles damage more from BMSB feeding than a virus disease, which makes the diagnosis that much more difficult.

The best management practice seems to be to select virus-free trees for planting. Some of the most severely infected cultivars include Bosc, Comice, and Seckel, while less pronounced symptoms are found on Hardy, Conference, Forelle, Howell, Old Home, Packham's Triumph, Bartlett, and a few other cultivars.

This is NOT MEANT TO SAY BMSB has not caused severe damage in the mid-Atlantic on fruit and vegetables because it has, just that fruit damage can be attributed to BMSB (as I did) when it was not the causal agent. Stony Pit seems to be fairly common this year in pears and any damaged-pitted fruit should be examined carefully.



Photo 1. Pear fruit with deep dimple in center caused by Stony Pit disease

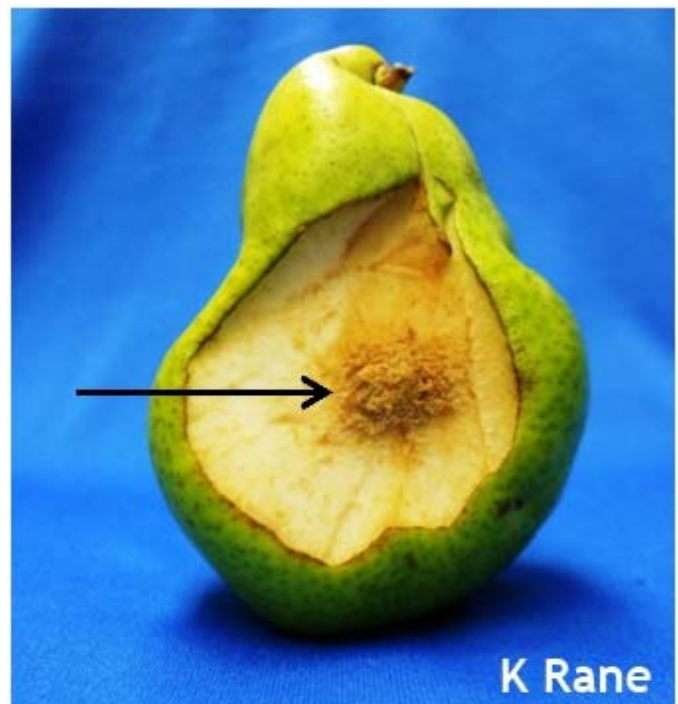


Photo 2. Dimple area cut open showing extremely hard, raised brown spot

Agronomic Crops

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

Soybeans

Be sure to continue to scout carefully for earworms during the next few weeks. Also, as we get closer to harvest be sure to check all labels for the days between last application and harvest.

Threshold levels of corn earworm continue to be found in fields throughout the state but they are not present in every field. Although we can find various sizes of larvae, in most cases they are still relatively small. In addition they are being found in some full season (especially where canopy is not closed) and double crop fields so the only way to know if you have an economic level will be to scout. If fields were already sprayed, be sure to watch for newly hatched larvae. With the sustained flights, there could be a new hatch of small larvae.

Since last week's report, we also are starting to find an increase in stinkbugs, especially in full

season fields. Like corn earworms populations, the levels as well as species vary from field to field depending on your location in the state. In Sussex County, the predominant species are native green and brown stink bugs. From the Harrington area through New Castle County, the brown marmorated stink bug can be found in the mix. In some fields, there continue to be hot spots of brown marmorated stink bugs with the highest populations generally still along woods edges. You will need to continue to scout for stinkbugs in fields that are in the pod development and pod fill stages. Economic damage is most likely to occur during these stages. You will need to sample for both adults and large nymphs when making a treatment decision. Available thresholds are based on beans that are in the pod development and fill stages. We are currently following the same guidelines that are being used in Virginia. Thresholds are based on numbers of large nymphs and adults (native green and/or brown stink bugs), as those are the stages most capable of damaging pods. As a general guideline, current thresholds are set at 2.5 per 15 sweeps in narrow-row beans, or 3.5 per 15 sweeps in wide-row beans.

Similar to 2010, there are fields with high levels of whiteflies. Although we have limited experience with whiteflies in our area, as far as we know, whiteflies have not been a problem in the past even when we have seen what folks describe as "clouds of whiteflies". They are related to aphids (that is they are in the same order of insects) and so can cause yellowing on the leaves if populations are high enough. Damage is most likely to occur when beans are stressed. The following link provides pictures of whiteflies and some additional comments regarding whiteflies in soybeans: <http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=832>.

For more information on what is occurring in Virginia, you will want to look at the Virginia Ag Pest Advisory: <http://www.sripmc.org/Virginia/>.

Charcoal Rot Identified in Corn - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Charcoal rot was identified in corn this week. Charcoal rot caused by the fungus *Macrophomina* is a common disease in soybean during hot, dry seasons. Occasionally it is seen in corn causing a stalk rot that in the early stages can look like the common stalk rots that we see here such as *Diplodia*, *Fusarium* and *Giberella* stalk rots. However when the stalk is split the characteristic sign of charcoal rot is the abundant small reproductive structures (sclerotia) inside the rind, especially on the vascular bundles. The inside of the stalk especially the lower 3-4 nodes are gray black giving it the name charcoal rot. Hybrids that have good resistance to other stalk rots often have some resistance to charcoal rot but the hot, dry conditions and early senescing of stalks can lead to infection and symptom development. Harvest in a timely manner to avoid lodging problems.



Charcoal rot on corn. Note the black sclerotia attached to the vascular bundles in the pith. That is the best diagnostic feature for identifying charcoal rot.

Soybean Disease Update - Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist; bobmul@udel.edu

Sudden death syndrome was diagnosed on soybean from Sussex County. This was an unexpected find since I associate SDS with cool, wet seasons. The only control for SDS is to plant resistant varieties, or, if susceptible soybeans are to be planted, double crop soybeans are

rarely infected. I would not expect this to be widespread but we did see it so be on the lookout for symptoms.



Foliar symptoms of SDS



Infected root on the left with diseased leaf compared to healthy stem and leaf.

Charcoal rot was also confirmed on soybean as well as corn. Soybeans are killed by the fungus resulting in dead, stunted plants in irregular patterns in the field. Symptoms are worse on full season early maturing varieties (Maturity Group III and possibly early Group IV's). The diagnostic symptoms are the ashy gray stems and lack of roots. Splitting the lower taproot and stem longitudinally with a knife reveal the best diagnostic feature which is the presence of the small black microsclerotia in the pith and often the cortex. Charcoal rot is favored by hot, dry weather and is common in Delaware soils that have been heavily cropped to soybeans over the

years. The tiny sclerotia overwinter in the soil and it just takes the right environmental conditions for the disease to occur. There is no usable resistance in soybeans to charcoal rot. The stress during flowering and early pod set triggers development of symptoms if that coincides with hot, dry, stressful weather. Most initial infections occur during the seedling stage and remain latent until flowering and later. Later maturing soybeans typically flower and set pods most years when conditions are less stressful and escape the yield reducing effects of the infection. Double crop soybeans are rarely affected by charcoal rot here in DE. Two year rotation will help reduce microsclerotia levels in the soil but if corn is used at least three years is suggested. Longer rotations would be better if they could be implemented.



Split soybean stem showing the charcoal gray discoloration in the pith with microsclerotia.



Close up of gray pith from the presence of the tiny microsclerotia of the fungus that causes charcoal rot.

Considerations for Weed Control in Winter

Wheat - Mark VanGessel, *Extension Weed Specialist*; mjv@udel.edu

As we approach fall and planting wheat, it's time to consider options for weed control. A few species have become more troublesome, and I attribute a lot of this to the way we have been approaching weed control. Most herbicides go out in the spring with nitrogen. While this might be acceptable for many fields, it is often not the most effective application timing. When splitting nitrogen applications in the spring, neither one are a great timing for herbicide application. The first nitrogen application is applied when the wheat is beginning to "green-up" after the winter, so this is before the wheat is actively growing (also means that the weeds are not actively growing). The second nitrogen application is after tillering and just before stem elongation (means weeds have grown considerably in the spring from first application of nitrogen and much taller than 3", and wheat growth prevents good coverage; both reducing the effectiveness of the spray). This is contrary to all recommendations which are: spray small weeds that are actively growing and achieve good coverage.

UD Weed Science Program has been looking at herbicide applications to winter wheat in the fall. Typically these treatments are going out in middle to late November. Some of the reasons this approach have been successful are:

1. Weeds are more susceptible in the fall. As I pointed out they are smaller and actively growing. Furthermore, fields with heavy poultry litter applications or excess nitrogen tend to have lots of weed growth in the fall and this contributes to even worse control in the spring.
2. Fall applications match better with weed development. As noted weeds are smaller the earlier they are sprayed. Furthermore, most annual species will progress to flowering early in the spring which can reduce herbicide performance as well.
3. Weed emergence is primarily in the fall. Some emergence occurs in the spring, but most occurs in the early fall. Fall emerging weeds are more detrimental to yield than spring emerging

weeds. And, if there is significant spring emergence, then a herbicide treatment with the second split of nitrogen will be beneficial for these small seedlings.

4. Fall herbicide applications are not influenced by temperature as much as spring applications. It is usually late into March that we start to get consistent temperatures above 55°F. In the fall, heavy frosts have occurred by mid November, but soil temperatures allow for active plant growth during the days. Therefore, we have better environmental conditions for control in the fall than early spring.

5. Coverage is better with fall applications. See notes above

6. Spreads out the workload. And if all the best planned strategies do not get implemented in the fall, you have a back-up plan for treating in the spring (albeit not as effective as fall).

I realize some spring herbicide applications are necessary such as: wild garlic control (but Harmony Extra can be applied with the second nitrogen applications); other perennial species that emerge in the spring (Canada thistle or bulbous oatgrass); or late planted fields when the crop may not reach the stage for safe application. But fields with a history of poor weed control, should be targeted with fall applications.

Next week will be a review of available herbicides for fall applications.

Grain Marketing Highlights - Carl German, *Extension Crops Marketing Specialist*; clgerman@udel.edu

Demand Slackens as Supply Concerns Loom
USDA's next scheduled release of monthly supply and demand estimates for the U.S. and World will be on September 12. Adjustments are expected for 2011 planted acres and yield estimates for U.S. corn and soybeans. The market has recently traded in anticipation of the September report. Yield and planted acreage estimates are expected to drop further in the September report. This raises the usual

question, how high can prices go based upon the expected downward revisions in U.S. corn and soybean production? The answer to that question can be summed up by simply stating that the size of the adjustments will determine whether prices need to bid higher from current levels in order to ration supply. In their July estimates USDA projected total use for U.S. corn for the 2011/12 marketing year at 13.5 billion bushels. Production was estimated at 13.470 billion bushels, 30 million bushels less than projected total use. This means that any downward revisions made in the September report will be price positive to U.S. corn and soybeans. Whether the revisions are considered to be already factored into prices on release day of the report or not will depend upon trader expectations going into the report (the rumor) and what USDA says the projected production is (the fact). An old marketing adage says to 'buy the rumor, sell the fact'. The results of the Pro Farmer crop tour will soon be tabulated. Those results may garner the attention of commodity traders for a time but not for long, all eyes will be upon the September 12 report.

USDA Export Sales Report 08/25

Pre-report estimates for weekly export sales of soybeans ranged from 27.6 to 33.1 million bushels. The weekly report showed total old-crop and new-crop export sales of 24.1 million bushels, with old-crop sales 3.9 million bushels, bringing the yearly total to 1.552 billion bushels, above USDA's demand projection of 1.495 billion bushels. Total shipments of 10.4 million bushels were below the 17.8 million bushels needed this week. This report is considered bearish.

Pre-report estimates had weekly corn export sales at 19.7 to 27.6 million bushels. The weekly report showed total old-crop and new-crop export sales of 20.7 million bushels, with old-crop sales of 15.1 million bushels, bringing the yearly total to 1.907 billion bushels, above USDA's demand projection of 1.825 billion bushels. Total shipments of 32.5 million bushels were below the 44.4 million bushels needed this week. This report is considered bearish.

Pre-report estimates for wheat export sales ranged between 14.7 to 27.6 million bushels. The weekly report showed total export sales of 12.8 million bushels, below the 16.1 million

bushels needed this week to stay on pace with USDA's 1.1 billion bushel demand projection. Total shipments of 17.2 million bushels were below the 20.9 million bushels needed this week. This report is considered bearish.

This report should be considered bearish.

Market Strategy

Those that have corn and soybean bushels to sell are currently sitting in the driver's seat, with new crop prices trending higher. Generally speaking, it is a good idea to reward market rallies with sales. New crop corn and soybean futures made new highs this week due to U.S. production concerns. Advancing sales on a portion of the remaining bushels would seem to make sense. Basis levels could widen drastically in the event USDA were to exceed expectations in revising the crop size down. Currently, Dec '11 corn futures are trading at \$7.38; Nov '11 soybeans at \$13.87; and July '12 SRW wheat at \$8.16 per bushel.

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

Announcements

First Ever Mid-Atlantic Precision Ag Equipment Day

Tuesday, August 30, 2011 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Caroline County 4-H Park
8230 Detour Road
Denton, Maryland 21629

This landmark event brings together all Mid-Atlantic land grant universities, major agricultural equipment manufacturers and retailers, and farmers to improve agricultural production efficiency and profitability

University of Maryland Extension, in cooperation with Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Penn State, and the University of Delaware, is proud to bring you the first Mid-Atlantic Precision Ag Equipment Day. Farmers from around the region are invited to presentations led by the nation's top experts on agricultural equipment and machinery engineering. Participants will learn about the latest technology and how to apply it in their operations. They will also have the opportunity to meet with the speakers in breakout

rooms throughout the day to ask questions in an informal setting. Practical and informative advice will be given on sprayer and planter section control, variable rate seeding, economics and practical implementation of RTK and GPS, soil mapping, using technology for on-farm research and developing custom variable rate prescriptions, and much more. Equipment dealers from across the region will be on hand in the sponsor midway showing off the latest in agricultural technology and machinery, and participants will see this equipment in action in the demonstration area. Certified Crop Advisor and Nutrient Management Credits will be available.

The event is free for attendees. Please register to help us plan for the event. When you register, you will also be entered in a drawing for door prizes. For a complete schedule or to register go to <http://www.enst.umd.edu/extension/Events.cfm> or call (410) 228-8800.

Delaware State University Small Farms Program Niche Market Field Day and Open House

Tuesday, August 30, 2011 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
884 Smyrna-Leipsic Rd.
Smyrna, DE 19977

Learn about niche market crops, such as pole lima beans, ethnic crops, organic production, and how to extend your season with a high tunnel. See demonstrations on different tomato stringing and Integrated Pest Management techniques. FSA and NRCS representatives will also be presenting.

Register by August 26. To register and if you have any questions or special needs, please contact Mike at (302) 857-6438 or mwasylkowski@desu.edu.

UD Corn Hybrid Trial Tour & Twilight Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 2011 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Dickerson Farms, 1730 Bayside Drive
Dover, DE

(From Rt.1, take the Rt. 9 exit towards Little Creek. Farm entrance is on the right after Bergold Lane.)

All farmers and Crop Advisors are invited to attend the University of Delaware corn hybrid variety trial and twilight meeting on September 1, 2011. The corn hybrid plots will be open for viewing at this irrigated

location starting at 4:00 p.m. Extension specialists will be on hand to discuss insect pest management in corn, management of diseases commonly found in our area, and weed control issues. Optimizing nutrient applications in corn will also be discussed. Dinner will be provided. CCA, DE Nutrient Management, and DE Pesticide credits will be available.

Schedule:

4:00 - 5:30: Sign-in and Tour Corn Hybrid Plots
Dr. Richard Taylor, Extension Agronomist and Teclé Weldekidan, Scientist, UD

5:30 - 6:00: Dinner

6:00 - 6:20- Late Season Insect Pest Update
Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist, UD

6:20 - 6:40- Common Corn Diseases in DE
Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist, UD

6:40 - 7:00- Weed Control Issues in Corn
Dr. Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist, UD

7:00 - 7:30- Optimizing Nutrient Applications in Corn
Dr. Greg Binford, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist of Soil Fertility, UD

Registration: Please RSVP by calling (302)-730-4000 by August 29 or email [Phillip Sylvester phillip@udel.edu](mailto:phillip@udel.edu).

University of Delaware Lima Bean Twilight Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2011 4:30 p.m.
UD Carvel Research and Education Center
16483 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE

The University of Delaware will be hosting a lima bean twilight meeting and tour on Thursday, September 15. Featured will be preliminary research results from yield trials with UD breeding materials. Other research on lima beans at UD will be discussed including breeding and evaluation for disease resistance, weed control, disease management, insect management, inoculation trials, cropping systems, regrowth cropping, and irrigation. Researchers will be on hand to discuss their work and present current results. There will be a wagon tour to visit late season plots.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of August 18 to August 24, 2011

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

Rainfall:

0.26 inch: August 19

0.73 inch: August 21

Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 89°F on August 21 to 80° F on August 22 and August 23.

Lows ranged from 68° F on August 21 to 55° F on August 23.

Soil Temperature:

78.9° F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at 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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