

CROP NOTES for May 18, 2016 – Two Updates

Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang>

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

by Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist
325 Washington St., Suite B, Decorah, IA 52101
563-382-2949

TWO UPDATES

Potential Impact of Cold Temperatures on Herbicide-Induced Crop Injury and Effective Weed Control

By Jeff Gunsolus, Extension Agronomist - Weed science, University of Minnesota

A nice article discussing the weekend’s frost and potential for herbicide-induced crop injury as well as reduced postemergence weed control.

<http://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2016/05/potential-impact-of-cold-temperatures.html>

Pea Aphids in Alfalfa

Today I had two reports of high populations of Pea aphids in alfalfa, one from Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension Agronomist in northcentral Iowa, and one from Nikki Schulte, Pioneer Seed Dealer/Agronomist near Dorchester. That’s quite a wide swath, although I had not seen any around Nashua or Decorah in the last two days. So I assume the aphids are quite spotty, which is typical of that pest.

Aphid Thresholds:

It takes a lot of aphids to reach threshold, and populations can be spotty across fields. Below are guidelines from IPM-58. As with most insect thresholds and forages... if it is less than a week to harvest, take the harvest (move it up a bit if possible). If it is more than a week from harvest, consider a treatment. The harvest process kills many aphids, but not all. Whether the population rebounds is anyone’s guess. Weather will change; maybe still favorable for the insect, maybe not. Beneficial insects get a start on a lower population of aphids after harvest. However, typical management for 2nd crop growth is to treat for Potato leafhopper at just a few inches of alfalfa growth, which would handle any aphid rebound as well.

Economic thresholds for aphids in alfalfa from publication IPM-58

Plant height, inches	Pea aphids/stem	Blue aphids & Cowpea aphids/stem	Spotted aphids/stem
< 10	30 – 50	10 - 50	10 – 20
10 – 20	50 – 75	30 - 50	20 – 40
> 20	100	> 50	> 40

See attachment for photos of each aphid.

Beneficial insect levels to justify not treating:

- 1 or more adult lady beetles to 5 – 10 aphids
- 3 or more lady beetle larvae to 40 aphids

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Brian Lang

Iowa State University Extension

Agronomist

325 Washington St., Suite B

Decorah, IA 52101

Office 563-382-2949

Fax 563-382-2940

Cell 563-387-7058

www.agronext.iastate.edu/

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