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Capital Area Ag Report
May 5, 2015

“Behold, my friends, spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love! — Sitting Bull

Announcements
Tuesday, June 23, 1 pm to 3 pm – “Alfalfa IPM and New Technology – at the O.A. Borden Farm, 2841 Valley Falls Rd., Easton. A field meeting about RoundUp Ready Alfalfa, Hybrid Alfalfa, Low-lignin Alfalfa, Potato Leafhopper Resistant Alfalfa and how it affects integrated pest management. RSVP and Questions to Aaron Gabriel, Capital Area Agriculture & Horticulture Program, 518-380-1496, adg12@cornell.edu

We are planning a big eastern NY Soil Health on-farm meeting for early September. Stay tuned!

FYI
Job Opportunity—Livestock Educator, for our Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program. Tom Gallagher will be retiring in September after many years of great service. Interested candidates can review the position details and qualification on-line and must apply on-line by 5/15/15. Go to: https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10163/jobdetail.ftl?job=27522&lang=en

2015 Cornell Guide to Integrated Field Crop Management is available for purchase ($26) online at http://store.cornell.edu/c-875-pmep-guidelines.aspx. Get the latest in pesticide recommendations and other agronomic information. There are also Cornell Guides for fruits, vegetables, ornamental horticulture, and hops.

The Ag Report is produced by Aaron Gabriel

The NYS IPM Weekly field Crops Pest Report is at http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwpr/

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Weekly field Crops Pest Report is at

http://blogs.cornell.edu/ipmwr/

Contents

1 View from the Field
2 Weather Outlook – April 30, 2015
3 Black Cutworm and True Armyworm in NY?
4 Alfalfa Weevil and Growing Degree Days
5 Clipboard Checklist

Plant into moist soil: The 2” or so of surface soil is dry in many areas. There are only chances of rain for next week. Before planting check to see how far you must go to reach moist soil. Plant deep enough for seed to reach moist soil. Corn can be planted up to 3 inches deep, and small grains up to 2 inches deep depending on your soil type. A pounding rain could seal up a clay and small grains would have a hard time emerging. A couple years ago, we had a dry spring and many continued to plant corn at 1 1/2” deep. The seed sat above the moisture for many days and did not germinate. Corn emergence was very uneven.

If you have not planted small grains or forages and still want to do a planting, I would wait until you are confident a decent amount of rain will fall (1/2” to 1”??), before planting these crops. Do not plant small grains or grasses after May 15th. For small grains, increase the seeding rate to 3 to 3 1/2 bushels/acres. Since we are late, there is less time for
plants to form tillers (side shoots). So, small grains need more seeds per acre when planted late.

**Grasses and Winter Grain Maturity:** Plants are heading out on their usual schedule. The growing point of reed canarygrass, orchardgrass, and winter rye are at the soil surface right now (on the plants I checked). There is little growth since growth started late. First cutting will be light. For good quality harvest based on plant maturity, even if there is little yield.

**Pasture:** Growth is slow, but it is time put animals on pastures. Rotate them so that 3 inches of leaf tissue remains. Be prepared to provide supplemental feed if there is not enough pasture to supply them. Supplemental feeding should not be done in the pasture, since the animals will nibble down what is there.