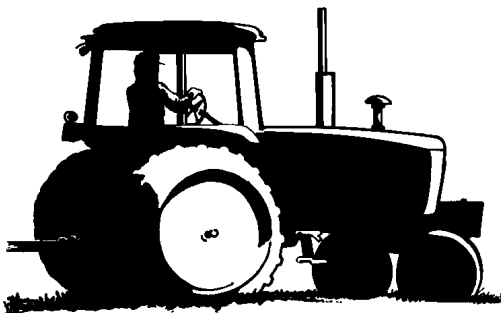


PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FIELD CROPS/LIVESTOCK EDITION \$1.50

AUGUST 7, 1997



Get Ready Now for Pasture and Hay Planting

Daniel Kluchinski, Mercer County Agricultural Agent

Of any time of year, late summer is one of the best times to plant pasture and hay crops. Cooler weather and reliable rainfall generally occur this time of year, providing advantageous conditions for germinating seeds and young seedlings. In addition, annual weed pressure is not as great a problem when compared to spring plantings.

For successful establishment of forage and hay plantings, plan and act now to get fields prepared. The most important factors to consider are soil pH and fertility, weed control, variety selection, and planting date. Following these steps will help increase the likelihood of a successful fall planting of forage and hay crops:

1. **Test your soil.** Take soil samples for pH and fertility analysis. Soil sampling should be done first to allow adequate time for the samples to be analyzed and the results and recommendations returned to you. Applications of limestone and fertilizer, if required, should be applied as recommended prior to planting to help improve soil conditions. Don't forget that most hay and forage species prefer pH range of 6.0 to 6.5, while alfalfa requires a pH range of 6.5 to 7.0 for optimum growth. If large quantities of nutrients are required, they are best incorporated prior to planting to increase fertility and availability in the root zone of the crop.

2. **Control weeds.** When necessary, weeds and in particular perennial weeds should be controlled prior to seeding. An investment in weed control at this time will help reduce future weed problems. Use of non-residual herbicides such as Roundup (glyphosate) will eliminate herbicide/crop rotation restrictions. Herbicide selection will depend on the plant species to be planted. Check in the 1997 Pest Management Recommendations for Field Crops guide or contact your county agricultural agent for recommendations.

3. **Select appropriate crops and varieties.** Choose hay and forage species and varieties that best suit your needs and the field conditions where they are to be planted. These factors include soil pH and drainage. For example, alfalfa should be planted on well drained soils with a high pH. Timothy, reed canarygrass, alsike and Ladino clover are better suited for wet areas. Choose varieties that are recommended for New Jersey by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Consult your Field Crop

SEE PLANTING ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

Get Ready Now for Pasture and Hay Planting 1

Weekly Pest Summary 2

Scout Soybeans for Spider Mites 2

Weekly Weather Summary 3

Weekly Field Crops Pest Summary

7/31/97

Joe Mahar, Field Crops IPM Agent;
Dave Lee, Salem County Ag Agent;
Sue Jones, Field Crops IPM Program Associate; Miles Huffaker,
Salem County Program Associate

Much needed rain has helped alfalfa, corn and soybeans around the state. Although it is premature to say how the rain will effect yields, fields are obviously improving. Much of the corn is tasseling, now.

◆ Alfalfa

The rain has also helped in reducing potato leafhopper populations state-wide. The immatures have dropped in numbers and since the rain, few fields that have been checked are over threshold. The best explanation seems to be that the rain caused a mechanical mortality of the immatures, by either drowning the nymphs or at least knocking them off the plants.

◆ Corn

Western corn rootworm beetles are apparent in most fields around the state. Populations appear to be low in the south, which is typical, with counts as high as .15 beetles per plant; threshold is .9 beetles per plant. Threshold fields for adults are occurring in the northern part of the state in Warren and Sussex Counties.

◆ Soybeans

Light defoliation has been observed in some fields which is normal. Japanese beetles seem to be the primary leaf feeders.

Two fields have been found with spider mite leaf damage; one field in Salem County and another in Central Jersey. □

Scout Soybeans for Spider Mites

William J. Bamka, Burlington County Agricultural Agent

The hot, dry weather has provided ideal conditions for **spider mites** in soybeans. Infestations have been reported in several fields throughout the state. **Spider mite** populations increase dramatically under hot, dry conditions because fungal diseases, which reduce populations, are unable to infect the mites. Also, **spider mites** can produce numerous generations quite rapidly in hot, dry conditions. During periods of ninety degree weather, **spider mites** can complete a generation in as little as 7 days.

Spider mites are very small, about 1/64 inch. They are greenish-white to green in color, and in some instances, reddish. Two dark spots on the abdomen are sometimes visible. Mites feed on the underside of leaves. Mite colonies will produce a thin web on the lower leaf surface. Initial plant damage appears as a yellow speckling of the leaves. Early mite injury is sometimes confused with herbicide injury or mineral deficiencies. As injury progresses, leaves become yellow with brown lesions and plant eventually die. **Spider mite** damage can cause economic loss in soybeans during long periods of hot, dry weather.

Scout fields initially by concentrating on the field borders, looking for early signs of white stippling at the base of leaves. Infestations usually begin along the edges of fields and progress to the interior. Early detection of mite activity can confine spraying to the field perimeter and prevent the need to treat the entire field with a miticide. Rain will reduce mite development and survival. However, mite levels may not drop below threshold if populations are extremely heavy.

Several miticides are labeled for **spider mite** control in soybeans. Consult the [1997 Pest Management Recommendations for Field Crops](#) for threshold levels and recommended miticides. □

PLANTING FROM PAGE 1

[Recommendation Guide](#) or field crop agent for assistance with such selections.

3. **Plant at the right time.** Research conducted at Penn State evaluated the performance of forages planted after the recommended fall planting dates. Dry matter yield of alfalfa, red clover, birdsfoot trefoil, and reed canarygrass were reduced the following season over the same species planted at the recommended planting dates. In New Jersey, planting should be done between mid-August and mid/late September. This means that now is the time to start planning for fall seedings of hay and forage crops.

Following these production recommendations can help to increase the success of establishing forage and hay crops on your farm. For additional information or assistance, contact your county agricultural agent. □

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 94 degrees at Pemberton, Toms River and Woodstown on the 29th and 46 degrees at Newton on the 30th. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.29 inches North, 0.05 inches Central, and 0.03 inches South. The heaviest 24 hour total was 0.76 inches at Charlotteburg on the 3rd to 4th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 82 percent North, 65 percent Central and 56 percent South. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 71 degrees North, 74 degrees Central and 74 degrees South.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 a.m. Monday 8/ 4/97

WEATHER STATIONS	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON %FC
	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	
BELVIDERE BRIDGE	.00	18.06	-2.13	86	49	72.	-1	1514	-133	66
CANOE BROOK	.10	20.64	-.64	90	51	74.	0	1816	173	76
CHARLOTTEBURG	.76	19.37	-2.09	88	49	70.	-2	1420	142	84
FLEMINGTON	.11	19.73	-.87	88	53	72.	-2	1569	-120	75
LONG VALLEY	.00	20.62	-1.47	87	52	70.	-2	1392	-64	73
NEWTON	.75	16.83	-2.88	85	46	69.	-3	1287	-207	89
FREEHOLD	.00	19.65	-.34	91	54	76.	1	1796	-13	65
LONG BRANCH	.00	18.78	-1.14	91	60	76.	1	1722	-9	46
NEW BRUNSWICK	.06	26.09	6.10	89	53	74.	0	1743	-152	74
PEMBERTON	.00	18.41	-1.69	94	53	75.	0	1971	122	40
TOMS RIVER	.00	18.23	-2.31	94	53	74.	0	1756	22	44
TRENTON	.25	21.22	2.01	88	53	73.	-3	1726	-249	51
BRIDGETON	.00	.00	.00	0	99	0.	0	0	0	0
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	.01	15.24	-2.45	91	57	75.	-1	1821	-27	28
DOWNSTOWN	.02	16.82	-1.88	90	56	75.	-1	1837	-150	50
GLASSBORO	.02	20.21	.53	90	60	76.	0	1976	15	47
HAMMONTON	.00	16.68	-3.06	91	54	75.	-1	1822	-138	44
POMONA	.00	20.20	2.35	91	55	75.	0	1836	6	42
SEABROOK	.10	18.82	.76	93	57	76.	0	1960	-34	48
ATLANTIC CITY MARINA	.07	18.08	.98	91	64	77.	2	1825	83	44
WOODSTOWN	.05	17.86	-1.98	94	54	76	NA	1996	NA	NA
WES KLINE — GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW										
Last Week 218 (Ending 07/28/97)										
This Week 247 (Ending 08/04/97)										

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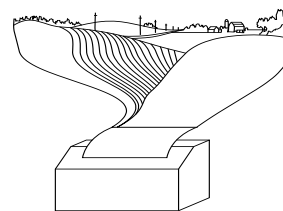
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**Document of Interest:
2017 - Weekly Field Crops Pest
Summary (updated every
Thursday)**



- 1) The system is easy to use. Dial (732) 932-6767 (use your phone, not the handset on your fax machine).
- 2) The recording will ask you to press a number if you'd like an Index of Documents, or a specific document faxed to you.
- 3) The recording will then ask you for your fax number.
- 4) After you hang up, the document will be faxed to you momentarily.

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