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Things seemed a bit quieter last week, due primarily to the cooler and wetter weather. Yes, I'm still seeing crops emerging and growing, but not as rapidly as the week before. Of course, we all know that can change in a blink: Some good warm weather, a bit of sun, and crops will seem to "double their size overnight"!! Of course, so too can diseases, weeds, and insects!!

I've been watching the "Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool" (<http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>) this past week. As of Thursday, most of Shelby county was in the "medium" category for "highly susceptible" varieties. Keep an eye on the weather and the risk level as your wheat fields head into flowering! According to our Plant Pathologist Pierce Paul, the ideal time to apply fungicides (Prosaro or Caramba) is at flowering, but applications made up to six days after flowering may also provide good levels of scab and vomitoxin control.

Got weeds?? Most of us do, at some level of infestation or other! Remember that they're easier to control when still young and actively growing!! Plan your attack and "get 'em while they're small"! We do have the 2015 Weed Control Guide for sale in our office to help you decide what herbicides to use . . .

Black cutworm can be a concern in some fields, even those with Bt traits (due to some resistant populations). If you have had problems in the past, it's time to start scouting . . . And, while you're there, be looking for slugs, too! Yes, there have been some reports of slugs feeding.

Our crop entomologist Andy Michel indicates that all fields should be scouted for slugs, but we need to be focusing on those fields with a history of these pests, where weed control was less than effective, or those that have a lot of residue left on the field. This is especially true for soybean fields.

Because this past week slowed down the growth of our crops a bit, it's that much harder for them to "outgrow" the feeding damage from the slugs: The slugs can eat more tissue than what the plant can replace. Here are a couple of videos on slug management that can be helpful:

<https://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/soybean/SlugManagementSoybean/> and

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/corn/slugmanagementcorn/>.

There is also a fact sheet "Slugs on Field Crops" that offer some insights:

http://ohioline.osu.edu/ent-fact/pdf/ENT_20_14.pdf .



Slugs can also be a problem in gardens. They are one of the major pests of hostas (http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/pdf/1239_02.pdf) and are among the myriad of pests that damage our bedding plants (http://ohioline.osu.edu/ent-fact/pdf/ENT_65_15.pdf). Another pest of perennials and herbs in the garden is the "Four-Lined Plant Bug." As its name implies, it is distinguished by four distinct black lines down its yellowish- to greenish-colored back. The nymph is a reddish-orange color with black wing pads.

The damage it causes shows up as little brown spots on the foliage, especially newer growth, and the tissue in that area becomes sunken; sometimes the brown spots coalesce and become a big brown spot of dead distorted tissue. Damage is caused by the plant bugs inserting their mouth part (stylet) into the plant and injecting saliva to dissolve the plant tissue. It then sucks out the liquefied tissue. The good news is that this pest has only one generation per year and is active in the spring when new growth is exploding. Once their feeding is completed, pruning or pinching the damaged growth takes care of the brown leaves. Since it's also early in the season, new growth resumes and covers up any remaining damage.

Here's hopin' you had a Great Memorial Day!!

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