

WISCONSIN PEST BULLETIN

Timely crop pest news, forecasts, and growing
season conditions for Wisconsin



STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PLANT INDUSTRY BUREAU
2811 Agriculture Dr. Madison, WI 53718 • <http://pestbulletin.wisconsin.gov>

WEATHER & PESTS

As the week began, mostly dry, mild conditions settled over Wisconsin, permitting farmers to resume spring tillage and planting operations. Afternoon high temperatures were near normal for early May, while nighttime temperatures fell below freezing in many locations. Fieldwork progressed slowly due to occasional light rainfall and cold soil temperatures. Limited amounts of corn, peas, oats and snap beans were planted in areas where soil conditions were acceptable. Following another week of less than ideal weather, the season is now 30-32 days behind last year and 11-22 behind the 30-year average, depending on region of the state and threshold used. As of May 5, the degree day accumulation at Madison was 107 using a base of 50°F, which compares to 326 degree days on the same date last spring and a normal accumulation of 230 degree days. With the exception of a significant black cutworm migration last month, insect activity has been slow for this time of year.

LOOKING AHEAD

BLACK CUTWORM: Migrants arrived in moderate numbers again this week. Traps registered a total of 85 moths, with a high count of 26 moths near Darlington in Lafayette County. The abundance of migrants entering the state since early April signals that higher than

normal egg deposition is occurring on winter annual weeds such as common chickweed, peppergrass, and yellow rocket. Larvae from the spring flight could begin cutting corn seedlings by May 30.

ALFALFA WEEVIL: Larvae have not yet been noted. The alfalfa weevil degree days listed in the 48°F column in the table on page 8 should be used to determine the first appearance of larvae and subsequent development. Routine field scouting is advised after the accumulation of 300 degree days, or by May 20 in southern Wisconsin.

TRUE ARMYWORM: This migratory pest is appearing in black light traps, and like the black cutworm, could cause problems in field crops and gardens later this month. The first indication of armyworm arrival was on April 11 near Janesville. Trap counts since then have been very low, although it is probable that many more were blown into the state with the cutworms. Corn and wheat growers should be aware of this possibility.

EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR: Larvae in Grant and Sauk counties were in the first instar as of May 4, and tents measured 1-2 inches long. Webbing in wild cherry and crabapple trees is still small and inconspicuous. Control measures in the next two weeks will prove most effective.

SEEDCORN MAGGOT: This insect may contribute to corn establishment problems this spring. Soil and

weather conditions that delay seed germination and emergence can greatly increase the risk of damage caused by seedcorn maggots. Failure of seedlings to emerge is usually the first sign of infestation.



Seedcorn maggot fly

Guillaume Jacquemin www.galerie-insecte.org

ALERT

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG: Cornell University's Scaffolds Fruit Journal reports that low numbers of brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) were noted in pear trees at Geneva, New York on May 2. This observation should serve as a warning to Wisconsin orchardists to be alert for stink bugs beginning at bloom. To date, specimens have been collected from Dane and Manitowoc counties, but no reproducing populations have been confirmed in the state. Fruit growers who suspect BMSB are asked to collect and submit a sample for official verification to Krista Hamilton at 118 N 6th St., La Crosse, WI 54601.



Brown marmorated stink bug

© B. Wermelinger/WSL

DEGREE DAYS JANUARY 1 - MAY 4

LOCATION	50°F	2010	NORM	48°F	40°F
Dubuque, IA	133	361	—	124	365
Lone Rock	121	354	—	110	336
Beloit	152	393	—	143	394
Madison	107	326	230	100	308
Sullivan	121	354	212	111	327
Juneau	100	317	—	92	283
Waukesha	88	292	—	82	263
Hartford	84	274	—	76	245
Racine	76	253	—	72	239
Milwaukee	72	241	163	67	224
Appleton	62	272	166	52	198
Green Bay	47	214	159	40	173
Big Flats	82	320	—	70	237
Hancock	77	320	222	66	227
Port Edwards	68	305	204	58	205
La Crosse	105	354	245	96	304
Eau Claire	82	308	204	70	238
Cumberland	76	272	178	59	212
Bayfield	60	169	109	45	182
Wausau	53	271	166	43	168
Medford	54	269	137	43	173
Crivitz	48	222	—	36	167
Crandon	48	236	139	36	156

Method: ModifiedB50; Sine48; ModifiedB40 as of Jan 1, 2011.
 NORMALS based on 30-year average daily temps, 1971-2001.

FORAGES

ALFALFA WEEVIL: Alfalfa fields suitable for sampling this week contained very low counts of 1-2 adults per 50 sweeps, and no larvae. Based on the current degree day accumulation, the first small larvae are unlikely to appear until May 20, four days later than last predicted.

PEA APHID: Surveys conducted in Grant, Green, Rock, La Crosse, Lafayette and Monroe counties yielded low counts of 0-3 aphids per 50 sweeps, which is comparable to last week. The numbers noted thus far are standard for this time of year.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG: Counts of this insect were also extremely low and ranged from 0-4 per 50 sweeps. Plant bug populations rarely attain economic levels in alfalfa in spring, but their relative abundance can be an indicator of potential problems for other fruit and vegetable hosts.

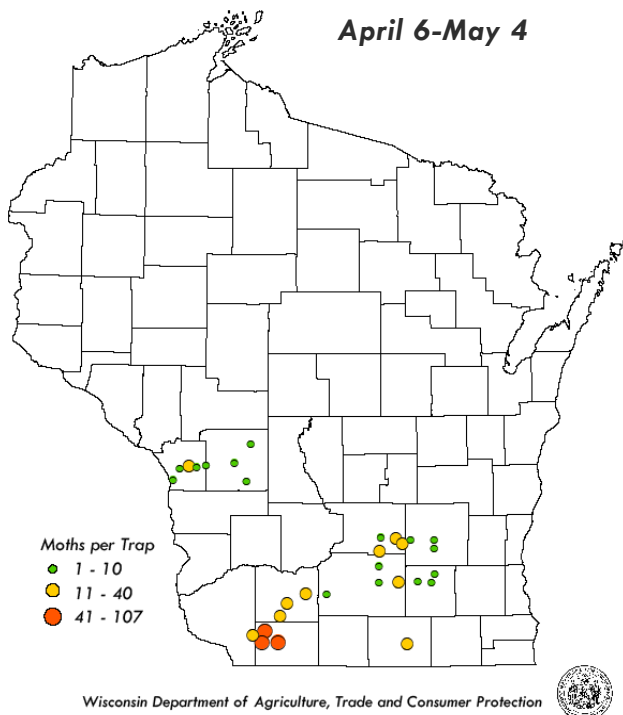
WINTER INJURY: Reports indicate that most alfalfa survived the winter without significant injury. Exceptions were noted in Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Portage and Wood counties, where light to moderate loss occurred in some fields. By most accounts, the injury was limited to low areas with ice and standing water.

CORN

BLACK CUTWORM: An unusually large spring migration which began on April 11 continued for the fourth week. The 30 pheromone traps in southern and western Wisconsin registered another 85 moths, for a cumulative total of 534. The combination of an early and large migration, and delays in spring tillage and planting, may contribute to a high incidence of black cutworm problems in late May and June. Based on the current degree day accumulation, 242 degree days (base 50°F), or about 26 days, remain before larvae in the Platteville area could begin cutting corn seedlings.

2011 Black Cutworm Trap Counts

April 6-May 4



FRUITS

REDBANDED LEAFROLLER: The first flight is escalating at most sites, as evidenced by moderate counts ranging from 0-126 moths (average of 27). Peak flight activity,

and corresponding high trap counts, should occur in southern orchards by May 12, or from 106-160 degree days (base 50°F). According to Orchard IPM Specialist John Aue, pre-bloom broad spectrum insecticides will not be worth the expense in most conventional orchards this spring since the RBLR population still consists of adults and has not yet transitioned into the damaging larval stages.

SPOTTED TENTIFORM LEAFMINER: First brood adults have been active for 2-3 weeks in some orchards, and peak emergence could occur in the week ahead at locations where 150 degree days (base 50°F) are surpassed. The optimal sample period for first generation sapfeeder larvae begins 7-10 days after a peak capture is registered. Pheromone trap counts for the week of April 28-May 4 ranged widely from 0-629 moths.

VEGETABLES

COMMON ASPARAGUS BEETLE: The phenology model for this asparagus pest forecasts the first appearance of adults from 150-240 degree days (base 50°F). The lower range of this threshold was surpassed by May 4 near Beloit in Rock County.



Common asparagus beetle

DavidH-J flickr.com

FLEA BEETLES: Growers of early-planted and transplanted leafy vegetables such as spinach and leafy greens are advised to take measures soon to prevent or delay flea beetle invasion of spring crops. Adjusting planting dates, enclosing seed beds with floating row covers, and eliminating potential weed hosts are all strategies that can reduce flea beetle problems. Planting a mustard trap crop (1% of total acreage) 7-14 days in advance of the

primary crop is another option, although research on trap cropping has shown mixed results.

WEEDS

WILD PARSNIP: This noxious weed is emerging in the southern and central counties, making control advisable in the next 2-3 weeks. Control options include herbicide treatment, hand removal and burning. Foliar herbicides spot applied to vegetative plants in spring can be very effective. Removal by hand is practical through mid-July, but extreme caution must be taken to protect skin from the toxic sap. The third option, burning plants, should be conducted from May to mid-June and only by properly trained individuals.

WINTER ANNUALS: Common chickweed, field pennycress, shepherd's purse and yellow rocket are currently flowering in southern Wisconsin. Problems with these and other winter annuals have become more common in recent years due to the increase in no-till/Roundup Ready cropping systems, which fail to target plants prior to seed set. Winter annuals emerge in fall, survive the winter as low rosettes, and resume growth in spring. As a result, these weeds get an earlier start than other species. Winter annual weeds also provide attractive oviposition sites for migrant black cutworm moths.



Yellow rocket

Clarissa Hammond, DATCP

DANDELION: As homeowners and lawn care professionals know, this perennial broadleaf weed is one of the earliest to emerge and flower each spring. The only 100% effective control is to remove the entire below-ground portion of the plant, which is impractical on a large scale. For severe infestations, an appropriate

systemic herbicide can be used. Herbicides perform best when applied in mid-spring or early fall.

NURSERY & FOREST

COOLEY SPRUCE GALL ADELGID: Overwintered immature females are active and should be noticeable on the undersides of Colorado blue spruce branches near the base of new swelling buds. The females develop rapidly in early spring, producing eggs that soon hatch into nymphs. Their feeding stimulates new shoots to elongate into the pinecone-shaped galls that encompass the entire shoot.

Control must occur before the females develop their white waxy coverings. The preferred treatment window is in early spring before new growth starts. The next treatment opportunity will be in fall, after the last generation of nymphs has settled onto the foliage of Douglas fir or into bark crevices of Colorado blue spruce.



Cooley spruce gall adelgid (gall)

PG Dan flickr.com

GYPSY MOTH: Egg masses have begun to hatch in southern Wisconsin. Field observers documented the first emergence of larvae in Brown County on April 26. Gypsy moth egg hatch occurs as saucer magnolia petals fall and serviceberries are in bloom. The first of two *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) treatments will be applied when 20% of larvae have reached the second instar stage, an event projected to begin by May 20.

APPLE INSECT & BLACK LIGHT TRAP COUNTS APRIL 28 - MAY 4

COUNTY	SITE	STLM ¹	RBLR ²	CM ³	OBLR ⁴	OBLR ⁵	AM RED ⁶	YELLOW ⁷	GDD 50°F
Bayfield	Keystone	0	0						
Bayfield	Orienta	—	—						
Brown	Oneida	4	6						
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls	0	1						
Columbia	Rio	0	89						
Dane	Deerfield	629	53						
Dane	Mt. Horeb	—	—						
Dane	Stoughton	9	31						65
Dane	West Madison	58	17						
Dodge	Brownsville	3	6						
Fond du Lac	Campbellsport	0	3						
Fond du Lac	Malone	25	9						
Fond du Lac	Rosendale	0	2						
Grant	Sinsinawa	0	28						
Green	Brodhead	0	70						
Iowa	Dodgeville	—	—						
Iowa	Mineral Point	3	126						36
Jackson	Hixton	0	1						
Kenosha	Burlington	4	44						
Marinette	Niagara	—	—						
Marquette	Montello	1	30						
Ozaukee	Mequon	0	6						60
Pierce	Beldenville	0	0						
Pierce	Spring Valley	0	6						
Polk	Turtle Lake	0	0						48
Racine	Raymond	34	7						
Racine	Rochester	85	23						76
Richland	Hillpoint	8	37						
Sheboygan	Plymouth	—	—						
Walworth	East Troy	4	11						
Walworth	Elkhorn	5	15						
Waukesha	New Berlin	0	114						

¹Spotted tentiform leafminer; ²Redbanded leafroller; ³Codling moth; ⁴Obliquebanded leafroller EASTERN; ⁵Obliquebanded leafroller WESTERN; ⁶Apple maggot red ball; ^{*}Unbaited AM trap; ^{**}Baited AM trap; ⁷Apple maggot yellow board.

COUNTY	SITE	ECB ¹	TA ²	BCW ³	SCW ⁴	DCW ⁵	CE ⁶	CEL ⁷	WBC ⁸	FORL ⁹	VCW ¹⁰
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls										
Columbia	Arlington										
Grant	Lancaster										
Manitowoc	Manitowoc										
Marathon	Wausau										
Monroe	Sparta										
Rock	Janesville	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walworth	East Troy										
Wood	Marshfield										
Vernon	Coon Valley										

¹European corn borer; ²True armyworm; ³Black cutworm; ⁴Spotted cutworm; ⁵Dingy cutworm; ⁶Corn earworm; ⁷Celery looper; ⁸Western bean cutworm; ⁹Forage looper; ¹⁰Variegated cutworm.