Oregon Seed eUPDATE

AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FROM THE OREGON SEED COUNCIL ISSUE 3 • OCTOBER 2012

Regional Reports

WILLAMETTE VALLEY. Grass seed yields were a mixed bag in 2012. The wet spring impacted yields, especially on poorly drained soils. Overall, yields were down from average. Some hill ground appeared to benefit though from the wet spring, and younger stands on better drained soil types did well. Vole populations were mostly low or at background levels this summer – see important Zinc Phosphide advisory on p. 4.

NORTH VALLEY. Disease pressure was low through spring and early summer, but yields were variable and mostly down. Grass seed yields were down 10-30% depending on species and stand age. Wheat yields were average despite some late season septoria nodorum issues. Crimson clover yields were slightly down but seed movement was strong. Red clover harvest was dry for the first time in a few years and yields were good to above average.

Planting and/or seedling emergence has been significantly delayed for fall planted seed crops on dryland fields due to dry weather. Most tall fescue planted on irrigated ground is up and growing. Just starting to carbon plant perennial ryegrass. Slugs have been active in some of the grass/clover fields that have been irrigated. Wheat is about to go in the ground on worked fields.

SOUTH VALLEY. Grass seed yields in general were down, especially on wetter soil types and on older fields. On some fields, tall fescue yields were off up to 40%. Annual ryegrass yields were off from 2011 levels and were 8-20% below average. Trapping numbers for sod webworm adults in the summer showed low counts. We're currently seeing some glassy cutworm problems. There is billbug damage on orchardgrass fields aggravated by the drought.

HERMISTON AND COLUMBIA BASIN. Overall the crop looked good following a mild winter and slightly cooler than normal spring. Seed yields were normal to below normal. A late frost in May was likely to blame for lower yields where they occurred. Urea fertilizer is being applied with irrigation to incorporate or Agrotain is used to minimize ammonia volatilization.

The Dry Weather

Following one of the wettest springs on record in the Willamette Valley, it's been dry. And dry for a long time – nearly 100 days without rain in some areas of the Valley. Dry weather this fall has allowed field work, drainage projects and liming to proceed full tilt. Lack of rain, though, eliminated the option of spraying out a sprout on most dryland fields. Lack of a sprout has also affected field inspections by the OSU Seed Certification Service for modification of land history and pre-plant inspections.

The prolonged dry conditions have also affected re-growth on non-irrigated fields. There is concern this will affect seed yields next year, especially on tall fescue. For a review of the effect of fall rainfall and irrigation on seed crops, see the OSU Seed Production research report articles by Tom Chastain (http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/seed-ext/Pub/1996/SR9731.pdf) and his current blog report (**blogs.oregonstate.edu/seedproduction/tag/grass-seed-crops**).

IN THIS ISSUE:

Disease, Insect and Weed Problems

Fall insect problems: cutworms, billbugs, fall armyworms, slugs and sod webworms can all cause problems in the fall on grass seed fields. Good descriptions, photos and control recommendations are available in the current PNW insect control handbook (uspest.org/pnw/insects?10LEGU07.dat).

Insecticide options are available, but work best in the rain. For bill bug control in orchardgrass, ODA reports that the Section 18 (emergency exemption) for Brigade insecticide remains in effect until November 15. Progress is being made toward a label for this use next year as well.

Field reps who trap for sod webworm adults on the Valley floor, where tall fescue fields were impacted severely a few years ago, did not find many in traps this year (low counts). The sod webworm larvae are easy to identify and the damage to crowns is distinct as shown in the photo at right.

Sod webworm larvae in a tall fescue crown. Such damage is not common this fall.

Aphids and Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus

Foliar insecticide sprays at the very beginning of peak aphid flights in the spring ***and in the fall*** have been effective at reducing aphid numbers on new plantings of perennial ryegrass. The goal is to reduce infection by the BYD virus. (http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/node/6102/print).

Aphid levels to date have been low according to OSU Extension specialists Glenn Fisher and Cindy Ocamb. Check with your field rep to find out if peak flights are under way in your region following rain in the next few weeks. Registered products like Baythroid are effective.

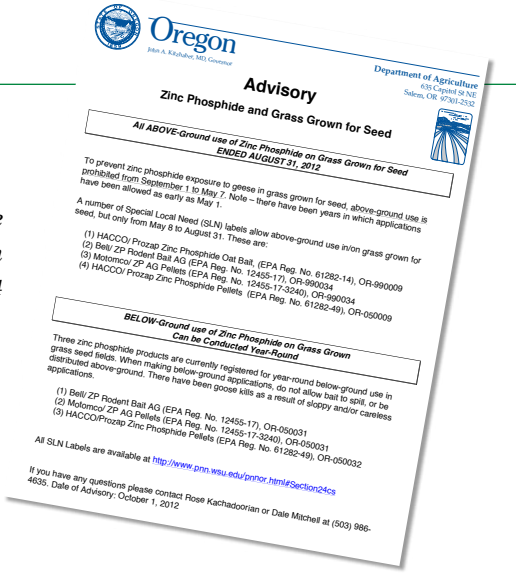
Historically, BYDV disease has been more of a problem on small grains than on grasses. One of the reasons for delaying wheat plantings until October 15 (or later on no-till fields) is to avoid aphids and BYD virus. Normally, a killing frost has occurred by this time, which by itself goes a long way to controlling this disease in winter wheat. Check with your field rep about the use of an insecticide seed treatment, especially for early planting dates, or where late aphid flights occur.

Label Updates

ODA Advisory on Zinc Phosphide

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, along with the OSC and OSU Extension, has worked hard together with industry to maintain Zinc Phosphide labels for grass seed and clover growers. Good stewardship is needed to maintain these uses. Many of you have already received the ODA advisory (see page 4), which summarizes current labels. Note: these are 24c labels and should be in your possession when you use the baits. The critical issue here is to use care with down-the-hole treatments to avoid spills or accidental surface applications.

Zinc Phosphide Advisory on page 4



Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532

Advisory

Zinc Phosphide and Grass Grown for Seed

All ABOVE-Ground use of Zinc Phosphide on Grass Grown for Seed ENDED AUGUST 31, 2012

To prevent zinc phosphide exposure to geese in grass grown for seed, above-ground use is prohibited from September 1 to May 7. Note – there have been years in which applications have been allowed as early as May 1.

A number of Special Local Need (SLN) labels allow above-ground use in/on grass grown for seed, but only from May 8 to August 31. These are:

(1) HACCO/ Prozap Zinc Phosphide Oat Bait, (EPA Reg. No. 61282-14), OR-990009
(2) Bell/ ZP Rodent Bait AG (EPA Reg. No. 12455-17), OR-990034
(3) Motomco/ ZP AG Pellets (EPA Reg. No. 12455-17-3240), OR-990034
(4) HACCO/ Prozap Zinc Phosphide Pellets (EPA Reg. No. 61282-49), OR-050009

BELOW-Ground use of Zinc Phosphide on Grass Grown Can be Conducted Year-Round

Three zinc phosphide products are currently registered for year-round below-ground use in grass seed fields. When making below-ground applications, do not allow bait to spill, or be distributed above-ground. There have been goose kills as a result of sloppy and/or careless applications.

(1) Bell/ ZP Rodent Bait AG (EPA Reg. No. 12455-17), OR-050031
(2) Motomco/ ZP AG Pellets (EPA Reg. No. 12455-17-3240), OR-050031
(3) HACCO/Prozap Zinc Phosphide Pellets (EPA Reg. No. 61282-49), OR-050032

All SLN Labels are available at http://www.pnn.wsu.edu/pnnor.html#Section24cs

If you have any questions please contact Rose Kachadoorian or Dale Mitchell at (503) 986-4635. Date of Advisory: October 1, 2012

CROP REMINDERS

- Don't forget to turn in seedling applications for fall plantings and over-seedings to maintain eligibility for seed certification.
- Check with your field rep about aphid numbers on new plantings of perennial ryegrass, and consider a spray to help reduce the introduction of BLDV into the field.
- Use Nortron pre-emergence to *poa* and wheat for maximum control on carbon band plantings.
- Continue to scout for fall armyworm, cutworm, billbug and other pests which cause damage in the fall.
- In wheat, use of Axiom continues to be an important first step to getting control of problem grassy weeds. Make sure the wheat is seeded 1 to 1.5 inches deep and at the 1-leaf stage to provide good crop safety.
- Bait problem fields for slugs before steady rains begin. In OSU field tests, timing has been just as important as product choice.
- Complete pre-emergence herbicide applications on grass seed fields by mid-October for maximum effectiveness and crop safety.

CALENDAR

2012

October 23	Oregon Seed Council Meeting, Cascade Grill, Albany, 6:30 pm
November 7	Oregon Orchardgrass Commission Meeting
November 19	Ryegrass Commission Meeting, Albany, 6:00 pm
November 27	Oregon Seed Council Meeting, Cascade Grill, Albany, 6:30 pm
November 28	Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, Albany, 6:00 pm
December 5	Oregon Clover Commission Meeting
December 10	Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, Salem, 7:00 am
December 10-11	Seed League Annual Meeting, Salem

2013

January 16	Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association Annual Grower Meeting

The e-newsletter

Greetings - hopefully you had a safe and profitable harvest. If this is the first time you've received the e-newsletter, the purpose is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps on agronomic and pest issues. It includes regional reports from field reps, consultants, growers, the OSC pesticide project, ODA and OSU research and Extension staff.

Both growers and field reps contribute to this e-newsletter, which is one of the things that distinguish it from the Oregon Seed Magazine. You can send in observations, reports, digital photos of interest or suggestions and are welcome anytime.

– Mark Mellbye, agronomist and eUPDATE coordinator
oregonseedupdate@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH US

To sign-up for this e-newsletter or for archived issues, please visit:
http://www.oregonseedcouncil.org/seed-update

PAST NEWSLETTERS:

May 2012 - 1st Issue

June 2012 - 2nd Issue

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the field reps and OSU research and Extension staff who provided information and reports for this edition: Nicole Anderson and Don Horneck, OSU Extension field crops agents; Cindy Ocamb and Glenn Fisher, OSU Extension specialists; and for this issue agronomists from Wilbur Ellis; Simplot; Crop Production Services; Marion Ag Services; and Wilco; along with reps from Oregon seed companies.

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