



The Field Crop Advisory Team Alert Newsletter

Dependable pest management information from MSU Extension

The CAT Alert is MSU's targeted advice for growing field crops.

We cover immediate and long-term pest management tactics.

Timing matters, so we offer prompt delivery by mail or Internet.

How to read us on the Internet.

No one knows what the weather or pest pressure will be this spring and summer. The Field Crop Advisory Team (CAT) is structured to respond to the conditions with timely advice for growers and consultants. Members of the team are Extension field staff and campus faculty who meet weekly through conference phone calls to discuss current pest and crop conditions. Team members write newsletter articles and regional reports on crop development and pest management tactics for local conditions.

The newsletter articles respond to current outbreaks and recommend long-term preventative actions. Our recommendations include resistance management and protecting beneficial organisms. Some of the subjects covered last year include:

- How to control specific weeds like purple deadnettle and common windgrass.
- Soybean aphid updates and management options.
- Considerations for when to plant corn during a cold spring.
- How to control black cutworm with weed control.
- Effects of cold temperatures on insect control.
- Updates on wheat scab potential in Michigan.
- Weather conditions, growing degree days, and production implications.

Our newsletters are written, formatted, printed and mailed within 48 hours. With Internet access, you can view the newsletter even faster, typically within eight hours after the start of production. We look at conditions in surrounding states, data on trends from past years, insects trap catches, forecasting tools and the reports of our agricultural meteorologist to predict what your pest management needs will be.

See issues and archives of the *CAT Alert* at the IPM Program website:
<http://www.msue.msu.edu/ipm/fieldCAT.htm>

The CAT Alert program is coordinated by the MSU IPM Program. With grant funding, we are able to offer this free Internet service and keep subscription costs down for our mail recipients.



Subscribe for 19 issues throughout 2004

Our season begins March 2004. Most issues arrive during the growing season, but pre- and post- season issues will address preventative measures, harvest or storage concerns. Send your subscription any time during the year. We'll send back issues from the current publishing year if you subscribe before July 1. **After July 1, the price is \$15 and does not include back issues.** Editions of the CAT Alert are also available for fruit, vegetables and landscape.

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