

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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September 7, 2012, No. 23

Sorghum Pests

Summer weather conditions have played havoc with insect management in all crops this summer. Fall weather seems to be going to continue this trend. It is usually difficult enough trying to decide if and when to treat for pests but this year has been much more difficult, in my opinion, because of the poor and inconsistent pollination. There are considerable differences in plant development in adjacent fields and even in the same fields. There are significant infestations of “headworms” (corn earworms) and chinch bugs on sorghum but if the sorghum is in the dough stage, or at least the majority of the field is, neither of these insects are going to do enough feeding to justify spraying. It is just from flowering to dough that the heads are susceptible to damage by these insects. Please see KSU Sorghum Insect Management Guide 2012 for treatment recommendations: <http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf742.pdf>

Soybean Pests

There are a few defoliators starting to cause concern, but nothing substantial has been seen or reported yet. There are a few green cloverworms and woolly bear caterpillars but these can do considerable foliage feeding without causing any effect on yield. It would be really surprising if there were/are enough defoliators (the two mentioned plus others such as webworms and grasshoppers) at this date, and development of the soybean plants, to cause any impact on yield. Have not seen or heard about any corn earworms (soybean podworms) or bean leaf beetle populations at infestation levels that would justify treatments either. They also become less problematic as the plants senesce, but there are many double cropped acres with still-developing beans, so scouting needs to continue for probably another week or two.

Volunteer Wheat

Please remember to destroy all volunteer wheat at least **2 weeks prior to germination** of your planted wheat. This volunteer is the host for all wheat pests whenever there is no planted wheat available. Also, as a general rule to reduce all wheat pests, the later you can wait to plant the better the chance of avoiding an infestation.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

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Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from August 10th to September 6, 2012.

August 20 – Smith County – Flat bug, *Aradus gracilicornis* on angel flowers

August 21 – Sumner County – Brown dog tick nymph on human

August 21 – Shawnee County – Notodontid caterpillar on pine

August 23 – Lyon County – Rough oak bulletgall on bur oak

August 24 – Johnson County – Honeylocust bruchid on honeylocust and in home

August 24 – Crawford County – Corn earworms

August 24 – Barber County – Leaffooted bug, *Leptoglossus phyllopus* on spruce

August 27 – Riley County – Brown dog tick nymph on human

August 27 – Graham County – Weevil, *Sitophilus* sp. in commercial building

August 27 – Sedgwick County – Carpenterworm moth, *Prionoxystus robiniae*

August 30 – Wallace County – Hemipteran exoskeleton in home

August 30 – Leavenworth County – House centipede, *Scutigera coleoptrata*

August 30 – Riley County – House spiders, *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* in home

August 31 – Ellis County – *Tragidion coquus* (ceramycid beetles) on oak

September 4 – Butler County – Carpet beetle larvae in commercial building

September 6 – Sedgwick County – True bug nymphs around home

If there are any questions regarding these samples or about the identification of any arthropod please contact the Insect Diagnostician at (785) 532-4739 or GotBugs@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

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Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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