

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

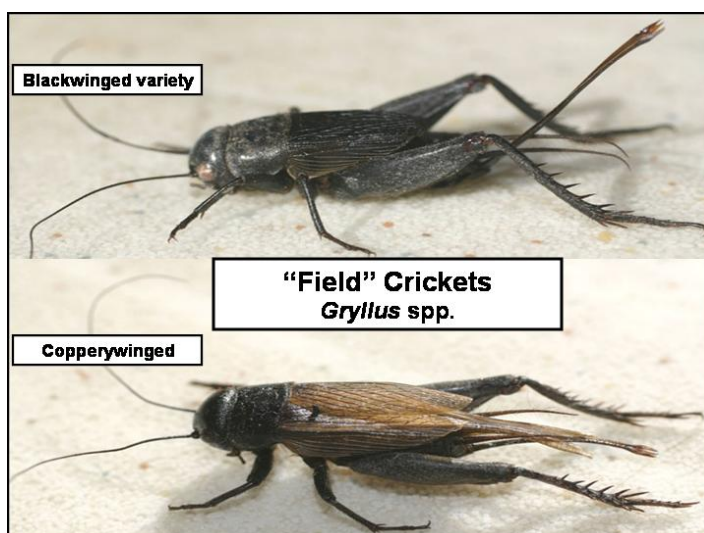


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August 29, 2008 No. 21

By Jiminy – What’s with all of the crickets?

It seems that every year, cricket activities attract attention in late summer and into fall. The most familiar crickets are the relatively large “field” crickets which are up to an inch in length (with their long ovipositors, female’s measure up to another ¾-inch). While most are all black, some may have a lighter appearance due to their coppery-colored wings.

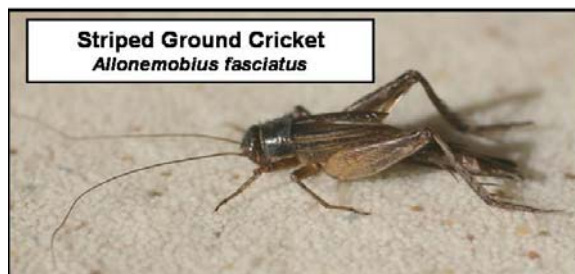


Field crickets seldom cause concern until the onset of cold weather when they seek indoor shelter. Suddenly, what was once considered (outdoor) melodious music-of-the-night, indoor chirping is regarded as an incessant and annoying distraction.

The crickets causing the current “distress” are striped ground crickets. In comparison to the abovementioned “field” crickets, these are miniature in size, usually not reaching ½-inch in length. Being more brownish to brownish-red in color, they are aptly named for their prominent body stripes.

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Why (now) are these crickets such a nuisance? One needs to go back to “then” to explain “now”. “Then” was last fall when the 2007 generation of striped ground crickets deposited eggs for overwintering. The 2008 hatch (speculatively) occurred in early June. Unseen nymphal development has progressed primarily in numerous abundant moist environments such as poorly drained marsh and pasture areas, and grassy sites along creeks/streams/rivers and lakes and ponds. By the end of July, nymphs underwent their final molt and became winged adults.

These highly mobile adults are attracted to illuminated areas. Whether from outside the city limits (as you drive at night, you can readily observe the glow of city lights) or within the confines of the city, large movements of crickets orientate/gravitate towards areas of high light intensity such as store and business fronts which are protected by bright security lights. While many homeowners may be spared this onslaught (porch lights are not significantly attractive), a trip down to the local “gas pump” for a late night fill-up will serve to alert one as to the presence of crickets. And the first order of business for shopkeepers/storeowners and workers upon arriving at work will be clearing the sidewalks and entryways of (mostly) dead crickets ----- the live crickets having temporarily departed for protective cover from the new day’s light-of-day.

There is little else to be done against these cricket aggregations. At least at this time of year, cricket movement “indoors” is minimal because they are not seeking out “heated quarters” as they would be later in the fall with the approach of cooler temperatures.

Bob Bauernfeind

Soybeans

There continues to be a significant mixture of soybean aphids, bean leaf beetles, corn earworms, green cloverworms, and stink bugs. Later planted beans are still at most risk. However, some pod feeding by bean leaf beetles, and seed feeding by corn earworms is starting to occur on the earlier planted beans and this should be of concern as the insects are now feeding on the marketable product. It doesn’t take very much of this type of damage to justify control. Green stink bugs are also quite common in central KS and these can also quickly

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reduce yield without any telltale signs of feeding. Please see your County Extension Agent or consult: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf743.pdf> for management recommendations.



Sorghum: Headworms

Sorghum headworm infestations are increasing throughout central and southcentral KS in sorghum fields. Sorghum checked in Saline County last week had approximately 60% of the heads infested with 1st instar larvae. This week, again in Saline County, fields had 100% infestations with more than 1 worm/head. They were all corn earworms and had increased in size from 1st instars to 2nd – 4th instars (See photo). Thus, at least in central KS, damage from these worms will continue for another 7 – 14 days with the most seed consumption yet to come, as these worms consume more as they get larger. For management considerations please consult: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF742.PDF>.



Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

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Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from August 22nd to August 28th.

August 22 2008: Riley County – Stink bug eggs

August 22 2008: Saline County – 1st instar corn earworms in sorghum

August 22 2008: Saline County – Gray sunflower seed weevil and European corn borer

August 25 2008: Riley County – Golden garden spider in lawn

August 25 2008: Wyandotte County – Acalyprate muscoid flies and Rove beetle in home

August 25 2008: Riley County – Drain flies

August 26 2008: Sherman County – Insect feeding damage to Pine

August 26 2008: Kingman County – Shortwinged green grasshopper

August 26 2008: Riley County – Brown dog tick – female

August 27 2008: Saline County – Corn earworms in Sorghum

August 27 2008: Saline County – Green stink bugs, Green cloverworms, Yellowstriped armyworm, Potato leafhoppers, Soybean aphids, and Bean leaf beetles in Soybean

August 27 2008: Riley County – Macrochelid house fly mites on Stable flies

August 28 2008: Dickson County – Fungus gnats in commercial building

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

Sincerely,

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