

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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April 25, 2008.....No. 4

Newsletter Changes

Changes in our web site are leading to changes in our newsletter. Due to recent changes in the software that we are using to manage our web site we have decided to switch our newsletter from an html format to a pdf format. This will allow us to create a more printer friendly newsletter, but will mean that you will need adobe acrobat or adobe acrobat reader to view the newsletter. Also as part of the change we are moving to a web based newsletter subscription module that will allow web users to subscribe to the newsletter on line and receive an e-mail message every time a new issue is posted to the web. Please bear with us as we make these changes and let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the conversion.

Alfalfa Weevil



Sampled many fields throughout central Kansas 14 April. All larvae were newly emerged, 1st instars, with very little feeding yet evident. Just a pinprick-sized hole on a very few, widely scattered plants, and those were the only plants with larvae – at least ones that could

could be dislodged into a bucket.



Sampled some of the same fields and some different fields on 22 April. Instar determinations from larvae sampled on this date were: 36% 1st; 62% 2nd; and 20% 3rd. Infestation levels averaged 10 per 30 stems with the lowest at 6 per 30 stems and the highest at 30 per 30 stems. We generally recommend insecticide applications at 1 larva per stem. Therefore, only one field out of the seven sampled would require treatment. Alfalfa stem length varied considerably but averaged 12-14 inches. Feeding will continue for the next 10-12 days, thus this year many fields may not require an insecticide treatment which would be unusual but welcomed. Additionally, no aphids and only one lady beetle were detected from all of these fields. So, if aphids are present, their populations may rapidly increase with very few beneficials present to help control them.

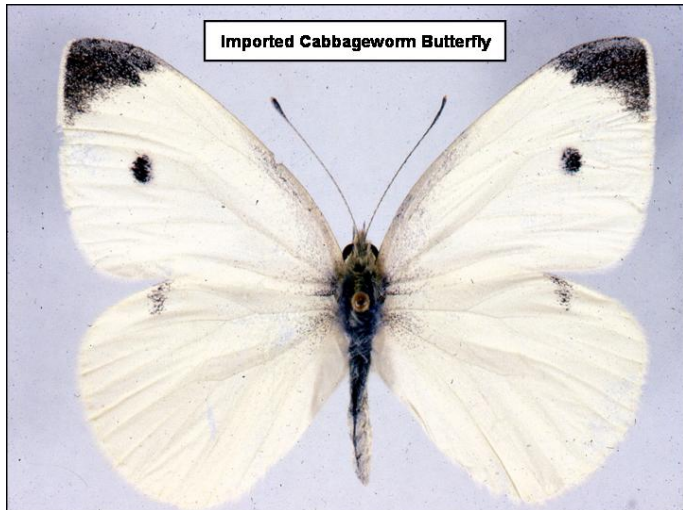
As a comparison, on 28 March, 2007, alfalfa weevil populations were: 20% 1st instars; 60% 2nd instars; and 30% 3rd instars.

Jeff Whitworth
Holly Davis

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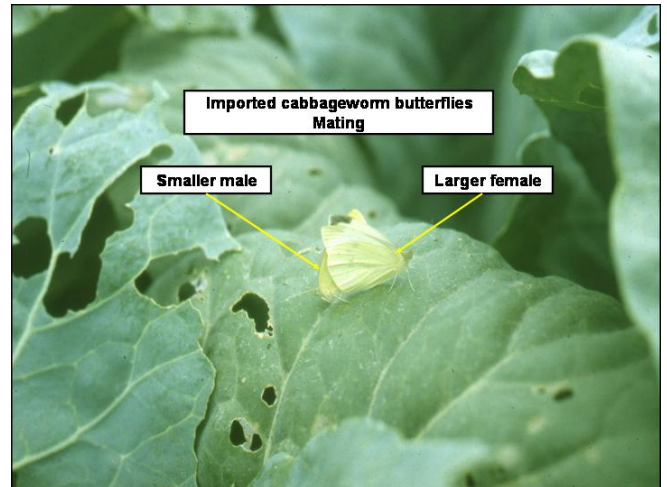
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Snowflakes in the air??? ----- Usually not in April. Could it be petals-in-the-wind from the many trees and shrubs in bloom? Yes ---- but this is the Kansas Insect Newsletter. So let's opt for **imported cabbageworm butterflies!**

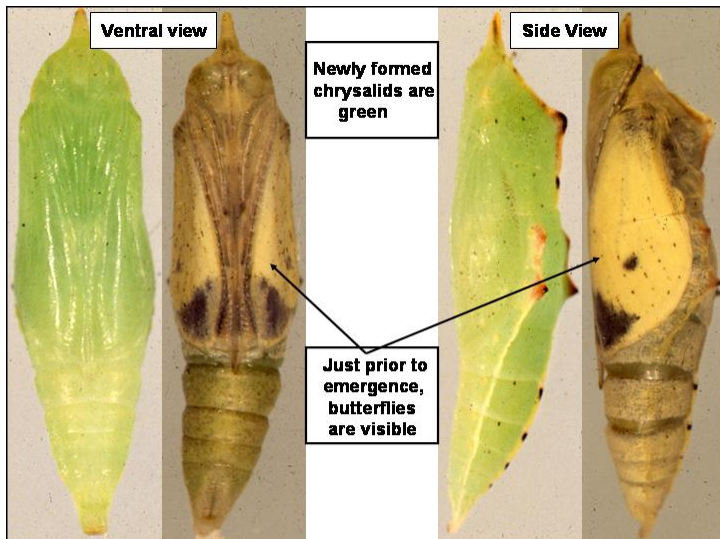


The recent warmer temperatures have spurred the 2008 imported cabbageworm activities.

Butterflies mate and deposit eggs on newly transplanted cole crops (primarily cabbage and broccoli transplants) in home gardens. By observing where butterflies "rest", a person can usually locate freshly deposited yellow, elongated eggs (most commonly on deposited on lower leaf surfaces).



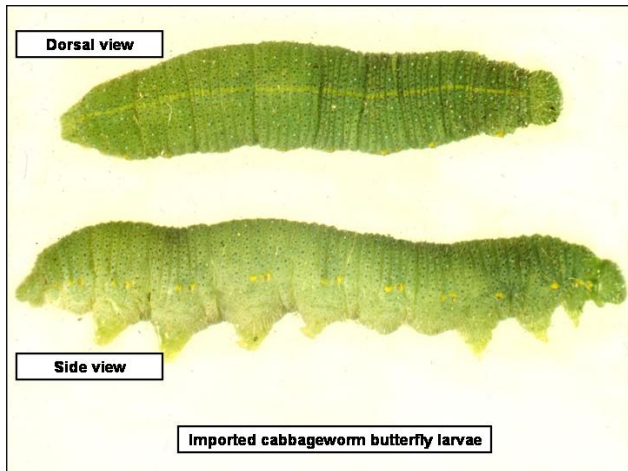
Imported cabbageworm butterflies overwinter as chrysalids formed last fall. The overall coloration of a newly formed chrysalis is lime green. When aged, the chrysalis' integument becomes transparent, revealing the newly transformed soon-to-emerge butterfly.



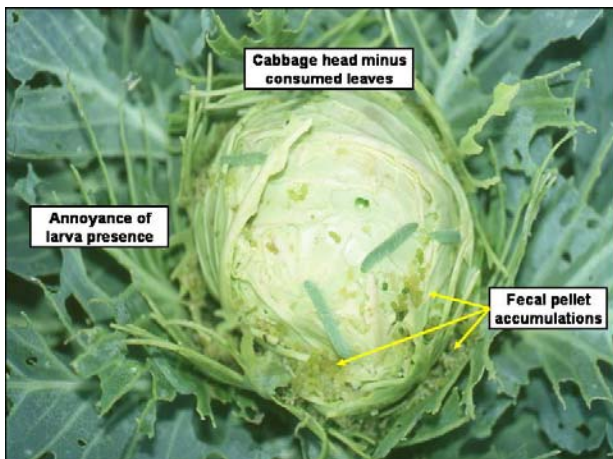
The resultant larvae are aptly described as "green fuzzies". When in their larger growth stages, they are responsible for creating holes in foliage ---- which in some instances (if gardeners have not been observant) may be the first sign of their presence.

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While feeding damage on wrapper leaves is cosmetic, worms will move to cabbage heads to continue feeding forays. Their mere presence may be discouraging. Accumulations of fecal pellets are objectionable. And damaged heads reduce usability/marketability.



Imported cabbageworm butterflies produce multiple generations each year. Thus both spring and fall plantings of cole crops are subjected to damage. Due to the ever presence of egg-laying butterflies, a continual spray program is required to keep larval populations at acceptable levels. The degree of larval suppression depends on acceptable damage level requirements of growers.

A wide array of insecticide products are available for controlling “cabbageworms”. Products may contain synthetic active ingredients, or alternative organically acceptable active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*, spinosad, neem, Horticultural Oils and Horticultural Soaps. It is the responsibility of the end-user to check individual product labels to ensure their legal application against the intended pest and crop.

A warmer week, but..... Despite both warmer daytime and nighttime temperatures, **accumulated 2008 GDD50's** continue to lag behind those of (2007) as evidenced by the March 1 – April 22 values:

- Baxter Springs – 237 (427.5);
- Clyde – 79.5 (267.5);
- El Dorado – 129 (329);
- Elkhart – 131 (211.5);
- Ellsworth – 105.5 (307);
- Emporia – 123.5 (333);
- Garden City – 97.5 (219);
- Hays – 73 (217.5);
- Hiawatha – 80 (280.5);
- Independence – 204.5 (414.5);
- Kansas City – 108.5 (308);
- Lawrence – 95.5 (302.5);
- Manhattan – 96 (299);
- Newton – 100.5 (297);
- Olathe – 114.5 (297);
- Pittsburg – 237 (424.5);
- St. Francis – 59 (125.5);
- Salina – 91.5 (307);
- South Hutchinson – 99 (313);
- Topeka – 115.5 (334.5);
- Wichita – 152 (328.5).

Robert J. Bauernfeind

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New Insect Diagnostician

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new insect diagnostician. Ms. Holly Davis is joining our staff to identify insect samples sent into the diagnostic lab and to also answer questions sent to GotBugs@ksu.edu. Holly is currently a student in the Entomology Department hoping to finish her Masters degree in the next few weeks.

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from April 19th to 22nd.

April 19 2008: Lyon County – Camel cricket in household

April 21 2008: Cheyenne County – Leaffooted bug found in various locations outdoors

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 holly3@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

Sincerely,

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