

Kansas State University Department of Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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Corn Update
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Corn Update

Have received several inquiries relative to corn earworms in field corn and there does seem to be a good infestation of them throughout north central Kansas. 100% of the ears we have randomly checked currently are, or have recently been, infested with corn earworm larvae.



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Many of these larvae are still relatively small and thus will be feeding for another week or two. The two most common questions received this week relative to these pests are; 1) Will a rescue treatment work? The answer – no. Once the larvae have hatched from eggs deposited on the silks and moved into the husk, they will be protected from contact insecticides.



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2) Will they re-infest these corn ears? The answer – no. Field corn will be too tough by the time these larvae finish feeding, pupate in the soil, emerge as adults, mate, oviposit, hatch, and larvae initiate feeding. But, the adults of this generation will move to soybeans (soybean podworms) and/or sorghum (sorghum headworms) to oviposit and larvae can do considerable damage by feeding on soybeans within the pods and/or directly on the kernels of the heads of sorghum plants. So, the larvae currently in corn are the “spring board” for the next generations moving into soybeans and sorghum.

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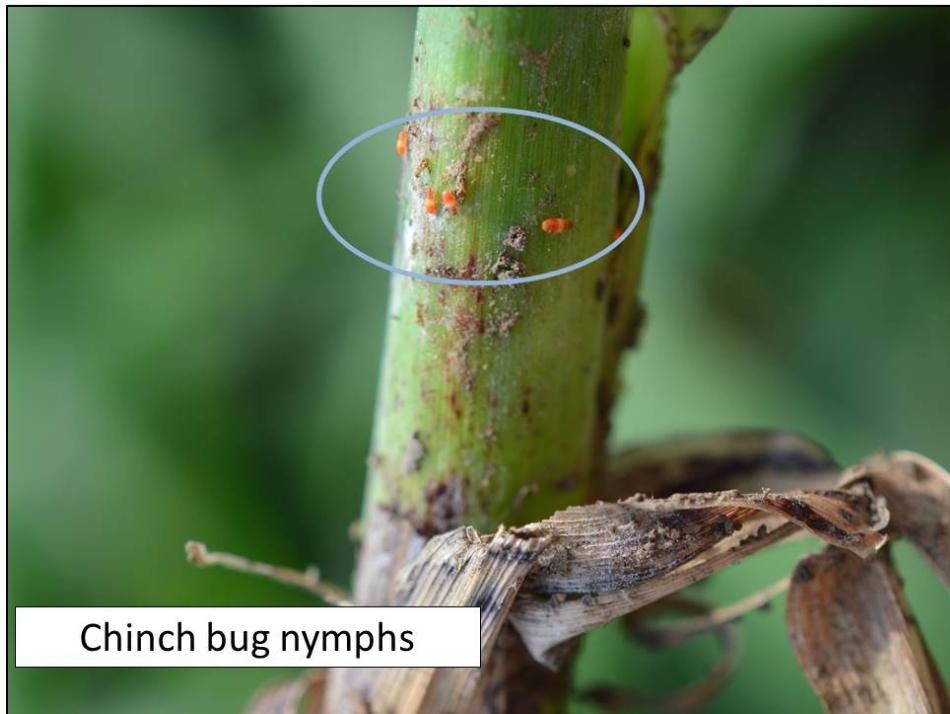
Sorghum Update

Chinch bugs are very active in double cropped sorghum in north central Kansas. They are also numerous in corn but the field corn is mature enough that chinch bug feeding should be of little consequence. However, young sorghum plants, especially under less than ideal growing conditions may be seriously stressed.



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For more information on chinch bug biology, management decisions, and insecticides registered to control chinch bugs please see the Sorghum Insect Management Guide:

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf742.pdf>

and Chinch Bugs: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3107.pdf>

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Soybean Update

Spider mites are infesting soybeans relatively early this year in several areas in north central Kansas. These mites damage plants by feeding on individual plant cells, usually starting on the undersides of lower leaves. Under less than ideal growing conditions, these mites can turn leaves brown and cause them to die in a few days. Mite populations can build up quickly and if treatment does become justified please use enough carrier to penetrate into the canopy and reach the undersides of leaves. Also, realize that if using an insecticide to control other pests, the predators will likely be significantly reduced which may allow mite populations to increase. For more information on spider mite management, please see the Corn Insect Management Guide: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF810.pdf>

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Sugarcane Aphid Update

1. First report of sugarcane aphid on grain sorghum in Kansas this year

The sugarcane aphid (SCA) has now been reported in Sumner County. Sorghum producers in Kansas should begin scouting their fields on a routine basis. More information on scouting and thresholds for treatment can be found in the Agronomy eUpdate article “Start scouting soon for sugarcane aphid” from July 7, 2017, and at the myFields web site at: <https://myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid>

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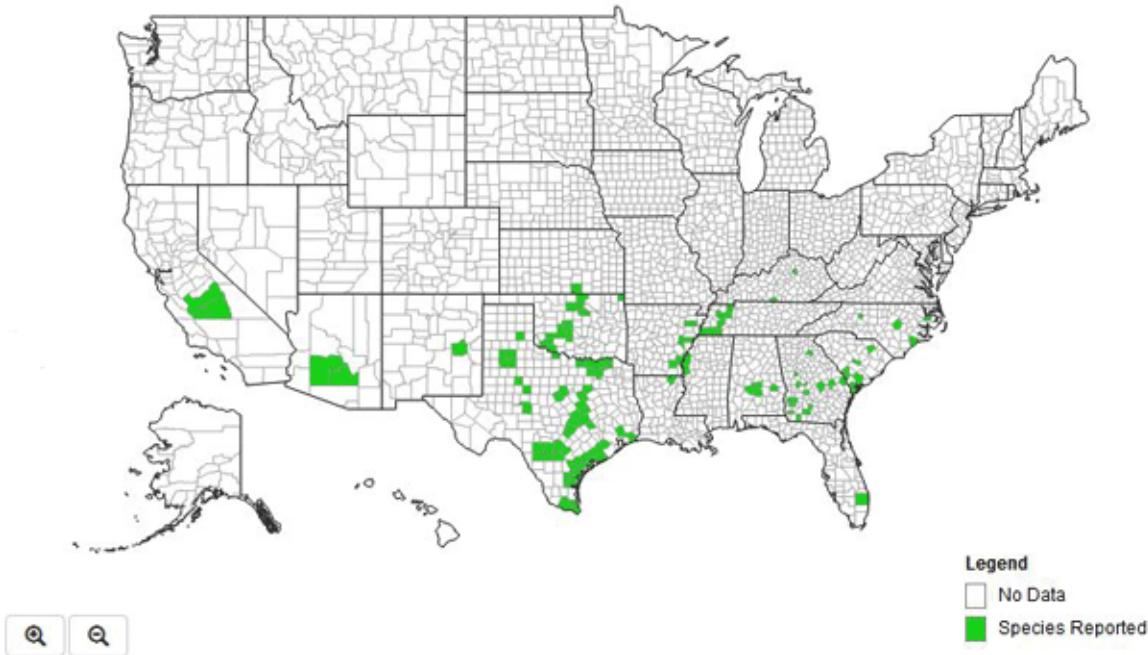
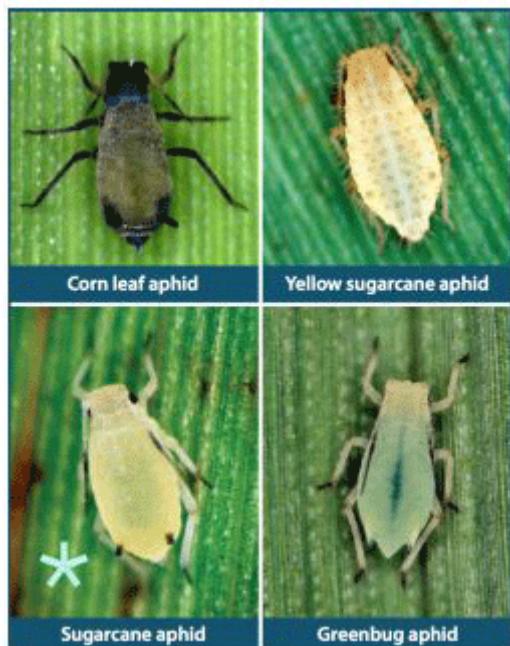


Figure 1. Current status of the SCA. The map indicates only the counties in which the SCA has been found, and does not indicate how many or how few aphids were found in that county. Source: <https://www.myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid>



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Chemical control

Two insecticides are labeled for use on sugarcane aphid on sorghum in Kansas this season:

Sivanto (flupyradifurone)

4.0 – 7.0 fl oz/acre (0.052 – 0.091 lb ai/acre)

Transform (sulfoxaflor)

0.75 – 1.5 oz/acre (0.375 – 0.75 oz ai/acre)

Field trials show good efficacy of the above materials against the sugarcane aphid. Both have the ability to penetrate leaves through translaminar movement and kill aphids feeding on the undersides.

Maximum efficacy will be achieved by application in a large volume of water, preferably 20 gallons per acre or GPA (minimum 10 GPA) by ground or 5 GPA from the air. Laboratory trials indicate that Transform (sulfoxaflor) is relatively safe for important aphid predators such as lady beetles and lacewings and thus can be considered IPM-compatible. This is true to a lesser extent for Sivanto (flupyradifurone), but various trials have indicated a much longer period of residual activity for this material.

Both insecticides have annual application limits and growers are advised to rotate them if follow-up applications are required. Note also that preharvest intervals will be a factor to consider when treating late-season infestations, so applicators should read labels carefully and keep a log of all treatments for each field. Because Transform and Sivanto are absorbed by leaves and eventually metabolized by the plant, reinestation can occur if large numbers of winged aphids continue to settle in the field.

When inspecting fields for treatment efficacy, note whether any live aphids are winged or wingless, as the former may indicate continued immigration rather than control failure. DO NOT attempt to control sugarcane aphid with contact insecticides that have broad-spectrum activity; these include all pyrethroid and organophosphate materials and combinations thereof. Replicated field trials indicate these materials are not effective, harm beneficial species, and often result in higher aphid numbers than unsprayed control plots.

Sorghum headworm infestations are often present when SCA is observed in a field, since this pest migrates using the same weather events. When choosing an insecticide to control headworms, use products that are less harmful to natural enemies such as Prevathon or Blackhawk, as these have proven compatible with Transform and Sivanto and less selective materials risk flaring the aphids.

The myFields web site: Keeping updated on SCA in Kansas and reporting findings

For ongoing current information on SCA in Kansas, check out the myFields web site often in the coming weeks and months: <https://www.myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid>

It would be helpful if producers would report findings of SCA in their fields on the myFields web site as soon as the insects are found. Reports of findings are used in developing the map seen in Figures 1.

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The reports used to develop each map are, in part, those submitted through the myFields web site from account holders that also have special permissions as “Verified Samplers.” Only reports submitted by these verified samplers get mapped so that we can account for data quality. However, we do encourage any account holder to report their observations on the SCA. Web site administrators can see these reports and can contact the submitter for a confirmation, a great way to get an early detection in new areas. Web site visitors will need to: 1) sign up for an account, 2) log in, 3) to get access to the '*Scout a Field*' feature to make reports. The *Scout a Field* tool is easy, you just map the observation location and select yes or no for SCA presence.

Here is the sign up page: <https://www.myfields.info/user/register>

Also, if sorghum producers are interested in receiving alerts, which are triggered by new reports submitted by verified samplers, they just need to sign up for a myFields account. Signing up for an account automatically signs them up for SCA alerts, but they can also opt out of them in their user preferences. The alerts include a statewide email notice when SCA is first detected in the state, and then are localized by county as SCA moves into the state. The notices will also contain latest recommendations and contact info for local Extension experts.

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

<http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html>

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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