# Kansas State University Department of Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners



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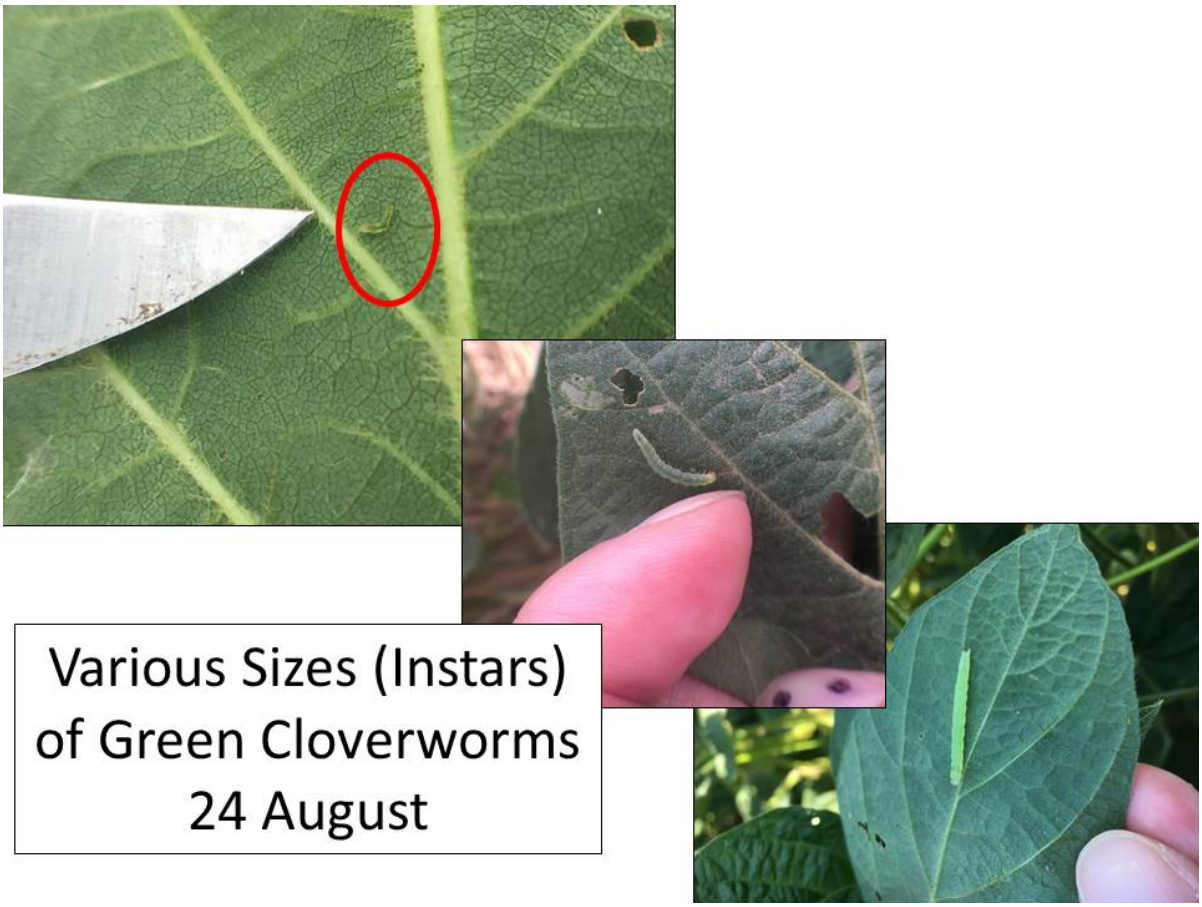
## Soybean Update – Green Cloverworms, Thistle Caterpillars, Stink Bugs, Soybean Aphids, and Beneficials.

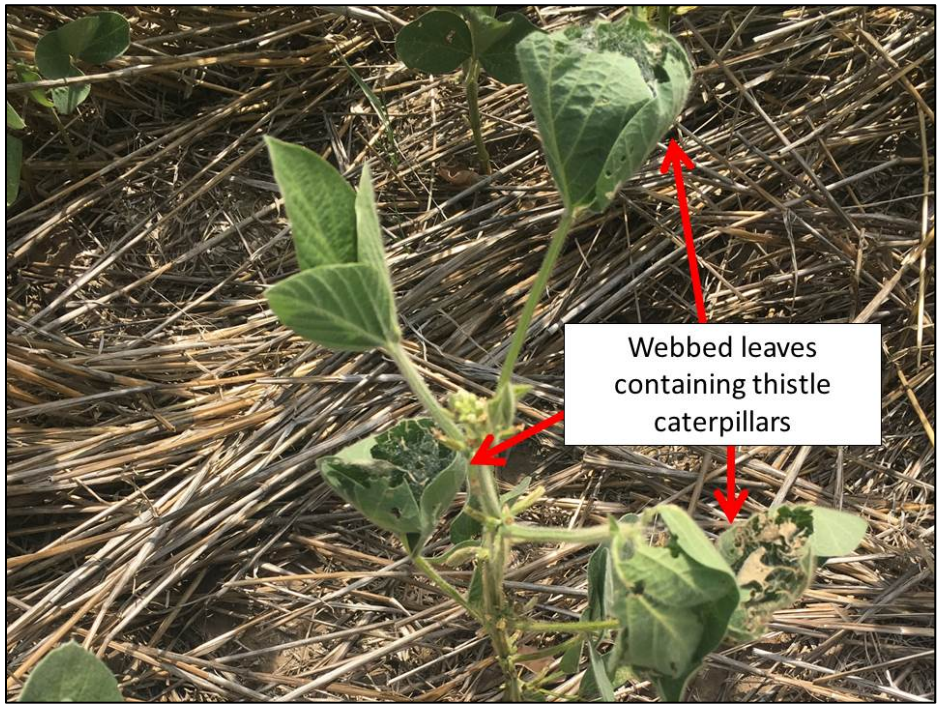
Insect activity is still increasing around north central Kansas. One positive, bean leaf beetles seem to be at really low densities in most fields, at least so far. Green cloverworm larvae are at various developmental stages but there are still many early instars. This means there probably is considerable defoliation to come because, as the larvae get larger, they simply eat more leaf tissue. However, as green cloverworm populations increase, they are often infected with an entomophagous fungus which decimates their populations.



Various Sizes (Instars) of Green Cloverworms 24 August

Fungal-infected (dead) green cloverworm - 2016

There also are many areas with significant infestations of thistle caterpillars and garden webworms. Both species web leaf tissue around and over themselves, creating a relatively secure area from which they feed on leaves. Many thistle caterpillars are really small right now and may not be noticed yet. So, continued monitoring is important, especially with soybeans just entering the reproductive stages of development.






Green stink bugs are relatively common in both conventionally planted and double-cropped soybeans. There are eggs, nymphs, adults, and mating adults all present at this time so sampling needs to be conducted periodically as these bugs can feed on the beans while they are developing inside the pods.



Soybean aphids were detected in double-cropped soybeans in Dickinson Co. on 24 August. Many soybean fields have significant populations of green lacewings and lady beetles, both of which may help control soybean aphids if and when they migrate into these fields. So, as always, please take these into consideration if insecticide applications are contemplated.


For more information of thresholds and management options for these pests, please refer to the KSU Soybean Insect Management Guide: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF743.pdf

Jeff Whitworth Holly Schwarting

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## Sunflower Update – Gray and Red Seed Weevils

Double-cropped sunflowers are highly susceptible to both gray and red sunflower seed weevils. Most double-cropped sunflowers sampled in the past week, just reaching the bud stage, were significantly infested with both seed weevils, i.e. more than two of each species/plant.



These weevils are, and will be ovipositing and the small grub-like larvae will consume or otherwise destroy the seed. This damage can significantly reduce yield if enough seeds are destroyed. For more information on sunflower insect pest management, please refer to the KSU Sunflower Insect Management Guide: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf814.pdf

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## Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

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