Kansas State University Department of Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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August 17, 2018, No 17

Red-Shouldered Bug

Red-shouldered bug, *Jadera haematoloma*, nymph and adult populations can be found gathering on the south and west sides of golden-rain trees, homes, and buildings; sometimes in extensive numbers. These insects are similar in appearance to the boxelder bug, *Leptocoris trivitatus* (Figure 1); however, adults lack the central red stripe on the pronotum of the thorax, and red markings on the wings. Instead, red-shouldered bugs have a distinctive red line on both sides of the thorax or 'shoulder.' Red-shouldered bugs are somewhat flattened and 3/8 to 5/8 inches long (Figure 2). Nymphs resemble the adults in appearance but are more oval-shaped and have wing pads—but not wings. Adults overwinter in a protected location including homes. They will also overwinter in the soil or leaf litter near building

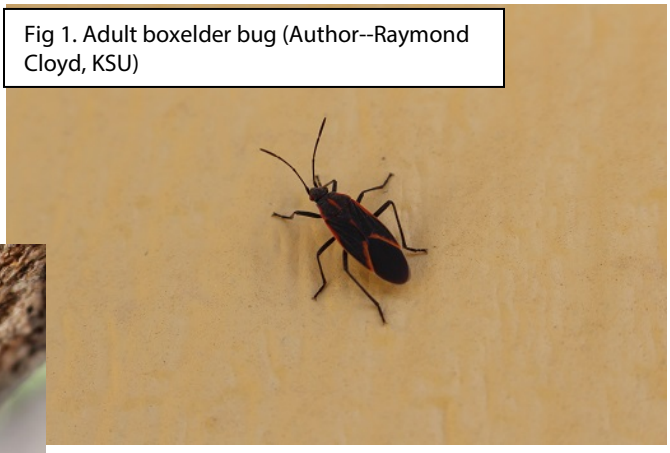


Fig 1. Adult boxelder bug (Author--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

Fig 2. Adult red-shouldered bug (Author--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

foundations. Red-shouldered bugs feed primarily on the seeds of the golden-rain tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata*. Both nymphs and adults can be found aggregating on the trunk of trees (Figure 3). Red-shouldered bugs can become a nuisance later in the season when they enter homes and buildings to overwinter. They do not transmit any diseases that we are aware of. The red-shouldered bug is native to the United States.

Fig 3. Red-shouldered bugs aggregating on the bark of golden-rain tree (--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

The main way to manage red-shouldered bugs from entering homes and buildings is by sealing or caulking cracks and crevices. Applying an insecticide to the outside of a home or building such as carbaryl (Sevin) or one of the pyrethroid-based insecticides (e.g. bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, or permethrin) may reduce the number of adults that enter homes or buildings. Once red-shouldered bugs enter homes or buildings, however, there are few effective management options other than vacuuming them up, and disposing of them from the bags outdoors. If you have any questions regarding red-shouldered bugs contact your local extension office or a university-based extension entomologist.

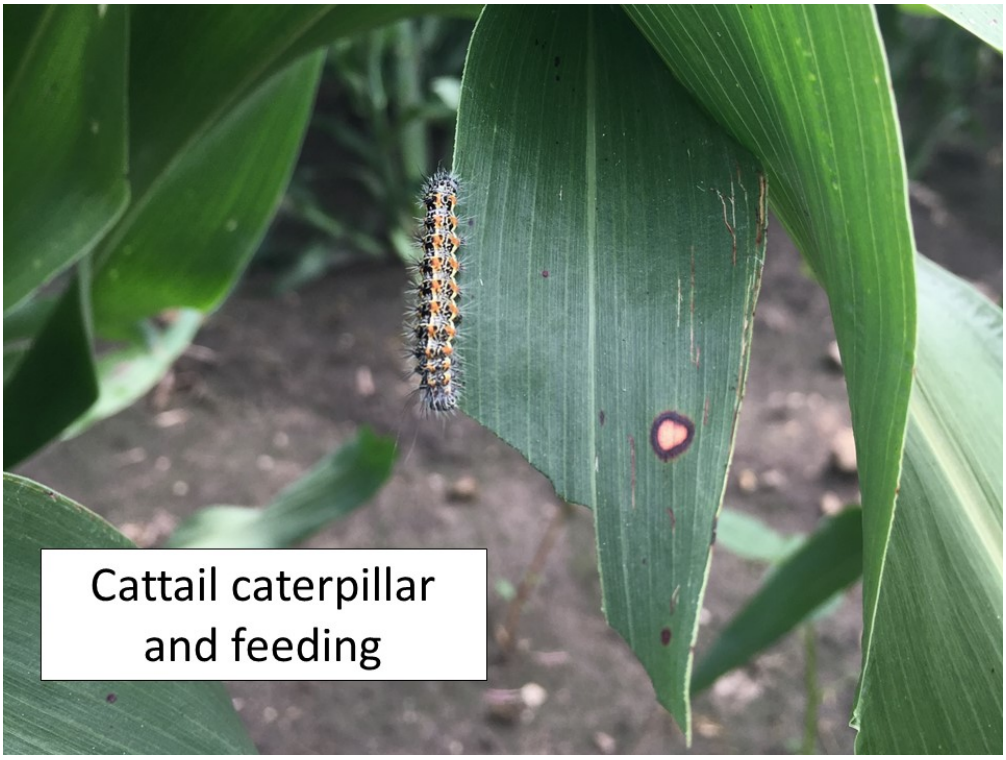
Raymond Cloyd

HOME

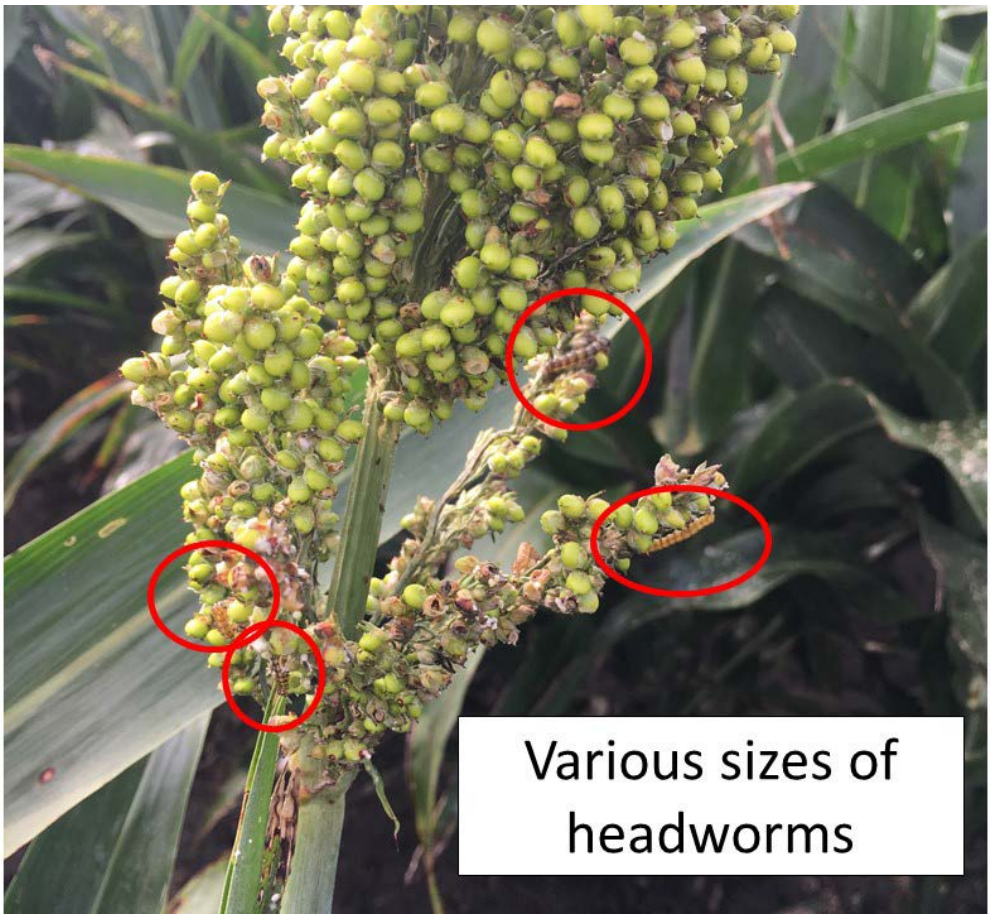
Sorghum Update – 'Ragworms', 'Headworms', and Aphids

Late planted sorghum is still causing considerable concern throughout north central Kansas as the leaves grow out of the whorl and are significantly 'chewed up' looking. These 'ragworms', primarily corn earworms and fall armyworms but also a few cattail caterpillars, are still active in younger plants.

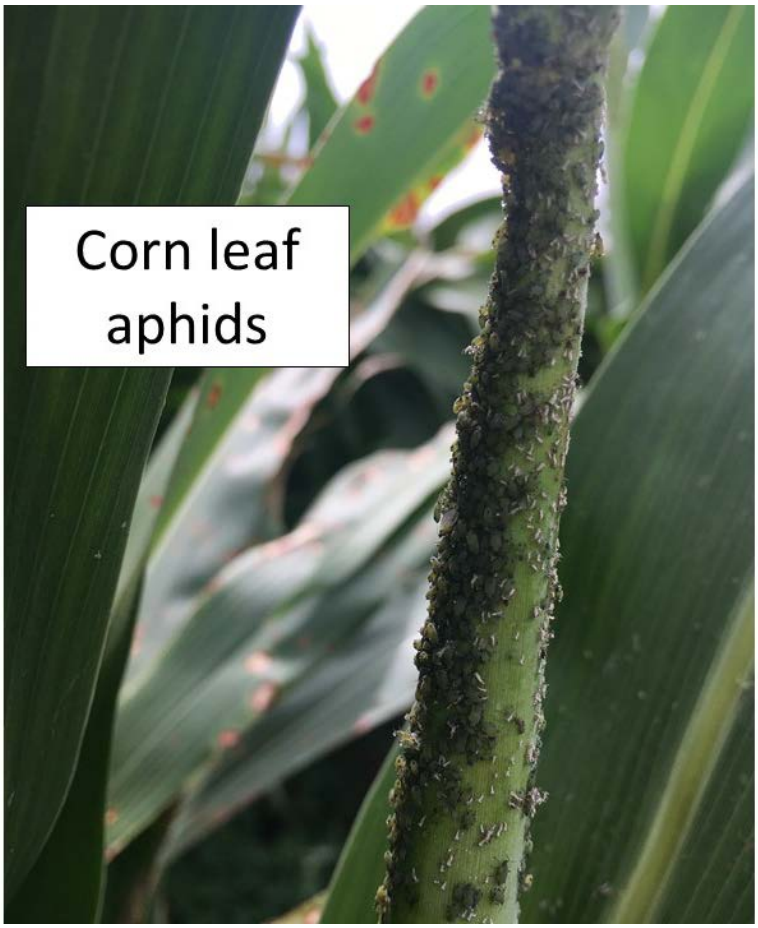

Ragged looking sorghum due to ragworm feeding

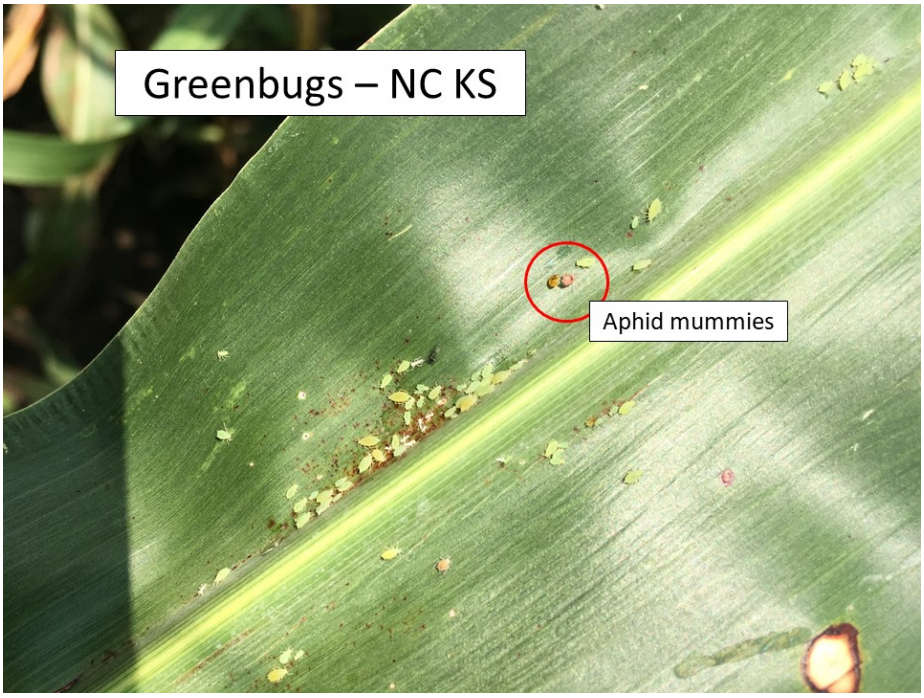

Cattail caterpillar and feeding

As these plants reach reproductive stages, i.e. flowering, there will be a high probability of having 'headworms' (corn earworms and fall armyworms) infesting the kernels. Sorghum heads are the most vulnerable between flowering and soft dough. There are currently significant infestations of these headworms throughout north central Kansas with worms in various stages of development. Headworms cause approximately 5% loss per worm, per head.



There are large numbers of corn leaf aphids, greenbugs, and even a few yellow sugarcane aphids around north central Kansas. The first report of a sugarcane aphid colony from Saline Co. was made on 16 August. These aphids are attracting, and providing food for, large numbers of beneficials which seem to be keeping aphids relatively well controlled. Insecticide applications have not been needed for aphids. More information on sugarcane aphids in Kansas can be found at My Fields: https://www.myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid


Corn leaf aphids


Greenbugs – NC KS
Aphid mummies

For more information regarding sorghum insect pest management please refer to the KSU 2018 Sorghum Insect Management Guide: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf742.pdf

Jeff Whitworth Holly Davis

HOME

Volunteer Wheat

It is once again time to control volunteer wheat! This needs to be done at least 2 weeks prior to wheat planting and will help mitigate problems with Hessian flies, wheat curl mites, wheat aphids (Russian, bird cherry-oat, greenbug, etc.) and diseases.

Jeff Whitworth Holly Davis

HOME

Sincerely,

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