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August 23, 2018 No 18

Soybean Update – Defoliators and Podworms

New Extension Publications – Pesticides and Bees; Squash Bug and Squash Vine Borer

Soybean Update – Defoliators and Podworms

Soybeans seem to be attracting the attention of many different types of pests, including many defoliators. Currently, they are mainly green cloverworms, yellowstriped armyworms, and thistle caterpillars. Fortunately, populations of these species, or any others for that matter, have not reached densities that have warranted insecticide applications, for the most part.





Yellowstriped Armyworms – early and late instars



Thistle Caterpillar

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Unfortunately, soybean podworm (a.k.a. corn earworm/sorghum headworm/cotton bollworm) populations are on the increase in south central and north central Kansas. These worms eat right through the pod to get at, and consume, the seeds within. So, as the seeds are filling, they are susceptible to being fed upon by these podworm larvae. They will feed on smaller, more succulent beans for 10-14 days, then cease feeding to pupate. Since they are feeding directly on the marketable product, it doesn't take much of this feeding to reduce yield.





One important point to remember relative to treating for soybean podworms: these are contact insecticides and thus they must physically contact the targeted pest. Therefore, you need to utilize enough carrier (water) to penetrate throughout the soybean canopy to get to where these larvae are feeding. But, you need to do this while the larvae are still small and before they have negatively impacted the yield. There will probably be at least one more generation this year, so monitoring needs to continue as long as plants are adding pods and there is succulent green reproductive tissue to feed on. For treatment thresholds and insecticide information, please refer to the 2018 Soybean Insect Management Guide available at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf743.pdf>

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New Extension Publications – Pesticides and Bees; Squash Bug and Squash Vine Borer

Pesticides and Bees

This extension publication is intended to increase awareness of the impact of pesticides on bees and offer suggestions on how to protect bees from pesticide exposure. It describes how bee behavior influences pesticide exposure and toxicity, and why laboratory studies reach different conclusions than what researchers have observed in the field. Benefits and risks associated with specific types of pesticides and application methods are discussed, as well as, complex pesticide interactions, which increase risks to bees but are not well understood. Below is the link to retrieve a PDF file of the extension publication:

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3428.pdf>

Squash Bugs and Squash Vine Borer

Both squash bug and squash vine borer are still creating havoc in vegetable gardens throughout Kansas. What can you do to alleviate the damage caused by these insect pests? Well, there are extension publications on both insect pests that were up-dated in 2016 by Drs. Raymond Cloyd and James Nechols. Below is the link to these extension publications:

1. Squash Bug

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3308.pdf>

2. Squash Vine Borer

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3309.pdf>

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