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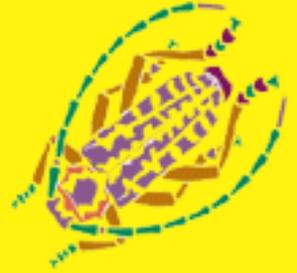
Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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Do not underestimate mosquitoes and West Nile virus this year!

During July and now at the beginning of August, we have detected the West Nile virus from mosquitoes from Barton County, Wallace County, and Trego County. Keep in mind that July, August and September are the peak months for *Culex* mosquitoes, the best vectors for West Nile virus. While there is no reason to panic, it's important to take care of standing water as developmental sites of mosquito larvae and using repellents based on DEET, picaridin, or lemon eucalyptus oil. I do not recommend using any home made remedies for repellents or insecticides. Lists of larvicides and repellents and their efficacy are here: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/MF2571.pdf>

Ludek Zurek, Medical Entomologist

Spider Mites - Watch for them in soybeans.

A research plot just north of Manhattan experienced spider mite infestations that caused bronzing of leaves on some plants and even resulted in plant death (R5 soybeans) for some entries. Treatment was warranted on some, but not all, varieties. Limited areas or scattered plants infested with spider mites also had been detected in Jefferson County soybeans late last week. So watch fields carefully, particularly if they are drought-stressed and (or) adjacent gravel roads (where road dust can sometimes increase the stress that plants at field edges are under). More information on spider mite management can be found in [Soybean Insect Management 2005](#) -- Randall Higgins

Soybean Aphids -- Apparently on the decline.

The soybean aphid infestations that we had been involved in helping monitor in Shawnee and Jefferson County seemed to be decreasing, in some cases to the point of not being able to locate them. -- Randall Higgins

Corn borers currently active across state.

Limited signs of European corn borer tunneling (stalk breakage and holes with frass spilling out) were noted in a few NE area corn fields. No egg masses were seen in limited sampling. -- Randall Higgins

In the Garden City area European corn borers have been flying for a couple of weeks and southwestern corn borers have been active for a little over a week. Southwestern corn borer eggs are now being found along with some young larvae. -- Phil Sloderbeck



Southwestern corn borer moth



Fresh southwestern corn borer eggs



Southwestern corn borer eggs
(red bar stage)



Southwestern corn borer eggs
(hatched and black head stage)

Worms feeding in whorls, tassels and ears.

Although not common, there was also sign that corn earworms had caused loss of some ear tip kernels in some NE Kansas fields as is typical in many years. Secondary ears that probably would not have amounted to anything in terms of grain production were sometimes completely consumed by the occasional earworm that infested them. --Randy Higgins

Armyworms, corn earworms and western bean cutworms were observed in corn this week in western Kansas. Infestations were light and worms were past the stage where treatments would be effective, as some of the larvae will be mature in a few days. For information on how to identify these worms refer to publication S121 [Identifying Caterpillars in Corn and Sorghum](#)-- Phil Sloderbeck



Armyworm

Western bean cutworm

Corn Earworm

Sunflower Head Moth -- Numbers low so far, but don't forget about seed weevil.

As has been reported earlier in the [July 15 newsletter](#) sunflower moths have generally been lower than normal this year. However the only way to know for sure what is happening in a particular field is to scout the field repeatedly as it begins to bloom (Note: We just received word that there was a spike in head moth activity at Hays on August 3 and fields blooming on the Station are now being treated). Also, be aware, that sometimes damage from seed weevils becomes more important in fields that are not treated for sunflower moths. Often sprays applied for sunflower moth will also impact seed weevil populations. Thus, if sprays are not applied for sunflower moth, scouting for seed weevils then becomes more important especially in confectionary sunflowers. See our [sunflower insect management](#) publication for more information on these pests. -- Phil Sloderbeck

Head Clipper Weevil -- Dynamic damage, but usually minimal loss.



Head clipper weevil damage



Head clipper weevil

Damage from the head clipper weevil was showing up this week in sunflowers that were beginning to bloom in the Garden City area. While damage from this pest is very striking, normally only a small percentage of heads are injured. No thresholds or management strategies have been developed for this pest. -- Phil Sloderbeck

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from July 29 through August 3, 2005:

- 7-29-2005, Osage County: Orb-webbing Spider in hedge.
- 7-29-2005, Thomas County: Blister Beetle in blackberry.
- 7-29-2005, Riley County: Comb-footed Spider.
- 7-29-2005, Pottawatomie County: Oak Lace Bug damage to tree.
- 8-1-2005, Riley County: Dogbane Moth caterpillars on milkweed.
- 8-2-2005, Kingman County: Sawtoothed Grain Beetles.
- 8-2-2005, Elk County: Cicada Killer Wasp.
- 8-3-2005, Harvey County: Jumping Oak Gall on leaves.
- 8-3-2005, Sedgwick County: Spider Webbing/Egg Sacs on house.

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 at bbrown@oznet.ksu.edu.

Bobby Brown, Diagnostician

Sincerely,

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