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Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

Department of Entomology
239 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, KS 66506-4027

Tel: 785-532-5891

Fax: 785-532-6258



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Be a Good Neighbor: Control Your Volunteer Wheat:

It is that time of year again. Time to make sure the volunteer wheat in the area is destroyed before planting next year's crop. If you don't control your volunteer wheat you not only put your crop at risk, but also that of you Neighbors.

Volunteer wheat is the ideal reservoir for a variety of pests that can spread out to infest next year's wheat crop. Diseases such as wheat streak, barley yellow dwarf, take-all and rusts and arthropods such as wheat curl mites, Hessian fly and aphids all can be found in volunteer wheat. If populations develop in the volunteer wheat then they often move out of the volunteer wheat into the newly planted crop.

If the volunteer wheat can be destroyed a couple of weeks before the next crop is planted then the chances of these pests surviving and moving into the young stands are greatly reduced. In addition, delaying planting a few days to allow the volunteer to die, reduces the amount of time that wheat will be subjected to pests prior to when cool weather will slow their development.

The whole idea of destroying volunteer wheat is to break the green bridge between this year's and next year's crop. The longer the period between when the volunteer is controlled and when the next crop emerges the better, but in general we would like to see at least two weeks, between the destruction of the volunteer and the new crop.

For the most part it does not make much difference if the volunteer is killed by tillage or by herbicides. The main thing is how quickly the volunteer dies and becomes unsuitable for the pests to survive.

Given the option of planting wheat or destroying wheat, one needs to get the wheat destroyed first and then

begin planting the wheat. Some of the worst cases of wheat streak often occur where the volunteer is destroyed after the wheat is planted. The wheat curl mites are then forced to leave the dying wheat just as the new wheat is emerging.

More information can be found in the publication MF-1004: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/crps12/mf1004.pdf>

And in a recent press release on the Hessian Fly: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/news/sty/2005/Hessian_fly081205.htm

Phil Sloderbeck

Brown dog ticks may transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever to People:

All stages (nymphs, larvae, and adults) of the brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) commonly feed on dogs. This is also the only tick species that infests homes and kennels in North America. The infestation can happen at any time of the year and it is difficult to eradicate. Until now, these ticks were known to transmit pathogens affecting dogs only (canine ehrlichiosis and canine babesiosis).

Recently, researchers in Arizona found new indirect evidence that brown dog ticks transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) to people. A total 16 patients (two of them died) with RMSF were identified in Arizona. Also, dense populations of brown dog ticks were found in the yards of patient's homes, all patients had contacts with tick-infested dogs, and some had history of tick bites. The pathogen causing RMSF, *Rickettsia rickettsii*, was detected in some of the ticks collected in one of the homes.

Again, this is not direct evidence but it does show that brown dog ticks carry RMSF pathogen and indicates that these ticks transmit RMSF to people.

If you find these ticks in your home or kennel, I recommend contacting a pest control company to spray a residual acaracide. You can read more about ticks and their control in Kansas here: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/mf2653.pdf>



female



male

Ludek Zurek

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from August 11 through August 17, 2005:

- 8-11-2005, Comanche County: Tiphid wasp.
- 8-12-2005, Barton County: Green June Beetles in corn/yards.
- 8-12-2005, McPherson County: Antlike Flower Beetle in home.
- 8-12-2005, Sedgwick County: Southern Black Widow Spider in rodent trap.
- 8-15-2005, Miami County: Thrip in soybean crop.
- 8-17-2005, Republic County: Smaller European Elm Bark Beetle in trees.
- 8-17-2005, Nemaha County: Dysderid Spider.
- 8-17-2005, Nemaha County: Drosophila sp.

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

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Sincerely,

Phil Sloderbeck
Extension Specialist, Entomology

Bobby Brown
Entomology Diagnostician

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Southwest Research and Extension Center
Garden City

Ludek Zurek
Extension Specialist
Medical & Veterinary Entomologist