Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

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Soybeans

Growers and consultants need to continue to be vigilant related to soybean aphids because small, scattered colonies were detected on 30 July, in Republic County.

Corn

First year corn field in McPherson County seems to have significant corn rootworm damage to roots and silk clipping. This field was in sorghum in 2007.

Jeff Whitworth

New Insect Publications:

Bean Leaf Beetle: Kansas Crop Pests, MF2824, 521K

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF2824.pdf

Bird Cherry-Oat Aphid: Kansas Crop Pests, MF2823, 592K

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF2823.pdf

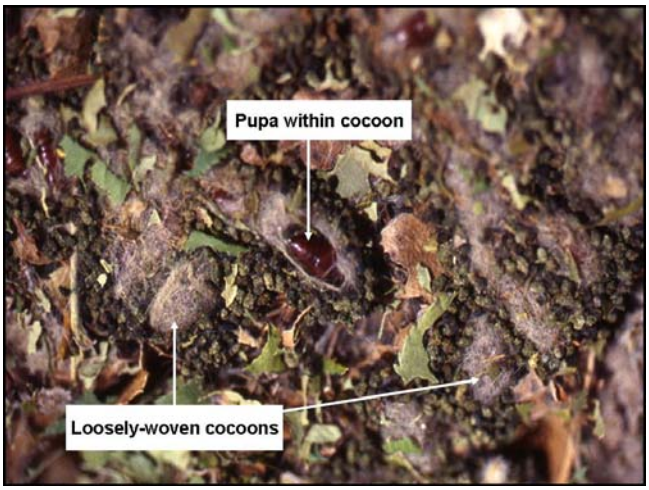
Flea Beetle: Kansas Crop Pests, MF2832, 224K

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF2832.pdf

Phil Sloderbeck

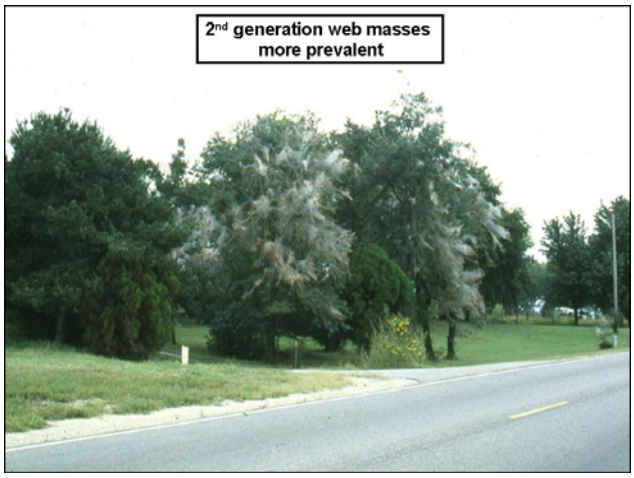
Fall Webworms? In Mid-summer?.....

Despite their common name, fall webworm activities typically begin in the late spring of the calendar year when moths emerge from overwintered pupae in loosely constructed silken cocoons located under leafy debris and soil litter.

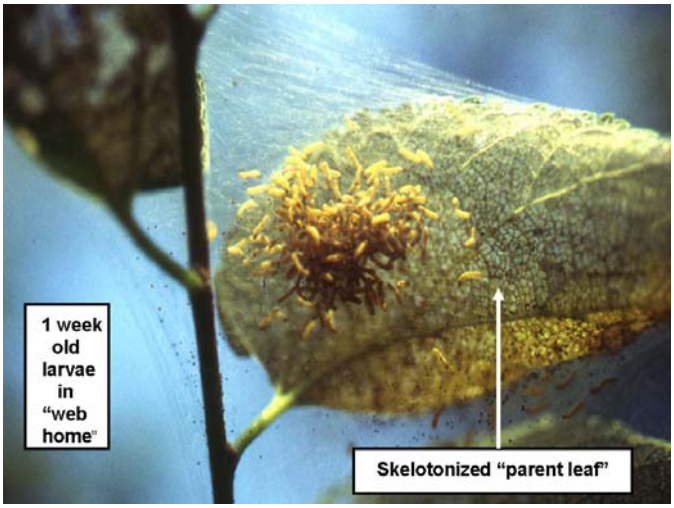


In Kansas, there are 2 races of fall webworms: black-headed (BH) and redheaded (RH). The larvae of each possess head capsules of the descriptor color.

First generation moths of the BH-race typically emerge in mid-May with that for the RH-race a month later. The prevalence of web masses of either 1st generation race usually is minimal. Rather it is the widespread and abundant web masses in the late summer and fall (attributable to 2nd generation) that gives them their common name: Fall Webworm.



Moths deposit egg masses on lower leaf surfaces, providing a protective covering with body hairs and wing scales. Upon hatching, larvae begin their gregarious association by massing on the "parent leaf" and eating all the tender leaf tissues but leaving behind the tougher vascular elements vein tissues.



Unlike most foraging caterpillar species which freely roam and feed, fall webworms cluster within their "web home". After foliage within a web mass is consumed, the larvae expand/extend the webbing to include the next immediately available foliage. As larvae approach the end of their feeding cycle, they become very evident due to the absence of foliage, their high numbers and large size. If the webbing in of itself is not considered objectionable, the mass of worms, fecal pellets and shed skins may be repulsive/offensive to people.

What are some options to controlling/eliminating fall webworms? Much depends on tree size and when fall webworms are first detected. In large/tall trees with canopies out of arm's reach, one can only watch as webworms feed with impunity. In trees with low branches, however, there is some recourse for action. As is always the rule, the sooner a pest population is detected, control procedures are less difficult.

Some people may opt for chemical control. Larvae are always more susceptible to insecticides if treated in their beginning stages. However, this seldom is the situation because small web masses usually remain

concealed/camouflaged by abundant foliage. Their presence only becomes obvious after several weeks to a month of feeding ----- a time after which web masses become evident. At this point insecticides may be employed. Bear in mind that the larvae are protected (within their web mass) against insecticides applied to the outer webbing. Thus it is essential that the sprayer wand be thrust into the web mass so that the spray can be directly applied to the targeted pests.

Another tact may be to treat the foliage. However entire trees/all foliage need be treated. Only the foliage immediately in line to be included into an expanded web need be sprayed. There are numerous active ingredients in many insecticide products for homeowner use against webworms. Check with your local retailer/garden shop as to product availability in your area.

If people are opposed chemical sprays of any sort, they may decide to physically remove and dispose of those branches with web masses. While pruning is an option, if many branches contain webs, their removal may result in a tree with a “bad haircut”.

To avoid this, then, do not prune out these branches, but rather remove just the webbing.

Webbing can simply be removed by hand.. As the webbing is raked out, the larvae within will be simultaneously collected. And while the now webbless, wormless, leafless branch may look stark, all buds are intact and should produce new foliage.

People can come up with their own devices/methods for web removal if they are opposed to direct contact/touch of webs and their occupants.

Bob Bauernfeind

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from July 25th to July 31st.

July 25 2008: Phillips County – Grasshopper *Melanolus* sp. on lawn
July 25 2008: McPherson County – Oak flake gall wasp
July 25 2008: Rush County – Carpet beetle *Anthrenus* sp. in home
July 25 2008: Reno County – Digger bees in home
July 25 2008: McPherson County – Nantucket pine tip moth and pine needleminer damage on pine tree
July 25 2008: Johnson County – Lone star tick – female
July 28 2008: Leavenworth County – Euonymous scale on Euonymous tree
July 28 2008: Leavenworth County – Sycamore tussock moth caterpillar on Sycamore tree
July 28 2008: Hodgeman County – Leaf beetle damage on Elm tree
July 28 2008: Lyon County – Midge fly found in home
July 28 2008: Lyon County – Sand loving tachytes found in home
July 28 2008: Lyon County – Spotted pine aphid and mites on Austrian pine
July 28 2008: Lyon County – Fungus gnats around Euonymus tree
July 28 2008: Shawnee County – White caterpillars found in home
July 28 2008: Johnson County – Springtails, brown wheat mite, grain mite, and booklouse found in home.
July 29 2008: Atchison County – Burrowing bugs
July 29 2008: Pottawatomie County – Cottonwood borer adult found on lawn
July 29 2008: Riley County – Cottonwood borer adult
July 30 2008: Comanche County – Burrowing bugs in home and yard

July 30 2008: Leavenworth County – Phylloxeran galls on Pecan tree
July 30 2008: Riley County – Dobsonfly – adult male
July 30 2008: Montgomery County – Fly larvae in new carpet
July 30 2008: Wyandotte County – Indianmeal moths in home
July 30 2008: Douglas County – Insect feeding damage to pine trees
July 30 2008: Pratt County – Twospotted spider mites on tomatoes
July 30 2008: Lyon County – small seeds found resting on soybean leaves

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 GotBugs@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

Sincerely,

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