

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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July 29, 2011 No. 16

Foliar (Leaf) Feeding in Sorghum

Over the last 7-10 days there has been considerable sorghum leaf feeding throughout north and south central parts of the state. This feeding is first evidenced by small 'window-paning' and most often goes unnoticed. This window-paning is caused by small, first-instar larvae. As the larvae grow their feeding becomes much more apparent as actual holes in the leaves and can eventually result in a very ragged-looking plant. The larvae responsible for this have been predominantly corn earworms, but we also found some fall armyworms and cattail caterpillars. Most sorghum fields we sampled were just entering the whorl stage and the larvae were already tucked into the whorl where they are well protected. Unfortunately, as cornfields continue to rapidly desiccate, sorghum and soybean fields will probably attract more female moths than usual and thus feeding activity will probably continue for a while. Foliar feeding is usually only unsightly with little impact on yield. Foliar insecticide applications are often rather ineffective anyway as the larvae are well protected within the whorl. However, fields need to be closely monitored so when heads emerge infestations can be determined early, as head-feeding by any of these larvae can quickly reduce yield.

Please see Sorghum Insect management Guide, 2011 for additional information and treatment recommendations:

<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf742.pdf>

Jeff Whitworth

Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from July 15th to July 28th.

- July 15 2011 – Phillips County – Wheel bug nymph
- July 18 2011 – Sedgwick County – Red carpenter ants in home
- July 18 2011 – Nemaha County – Root weevils (*Otiorhynchus* sp.) in home
- July 18 2011 – Allen County – Carpenterworm pupal casings in oak tree
- July 19 2011 – Morris County – Drugstore beetles in home

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July 19 2011 – Riley County – Red carpenter ants in home and lawn
July 20 2011 – Osage County – Larder beetles
July 20 2011 – Phillips County – Eyed click beetle, ivory marked beetle and wireworms feeding on damaged peaches
July 20 2011 – Miami County – Fungus gnats in commercial building
July 21 2011 – Geary County – Ghost spider and wolf spider in home
July 21 2011 – Sherman County – Springtails in home
July 21 2011 – Sherman County – Slug sawflies in garden
July 26 2011 – Riley County – Dog days cicada, southern masked chafer, American cockroach
July 26 2011 – Lyon County – Green stink bug nymph
July 26 2011 – Riley County – Green June beetles around commercial building
July 27 2011 – Phillips County – Green June beetles in lawn

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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