Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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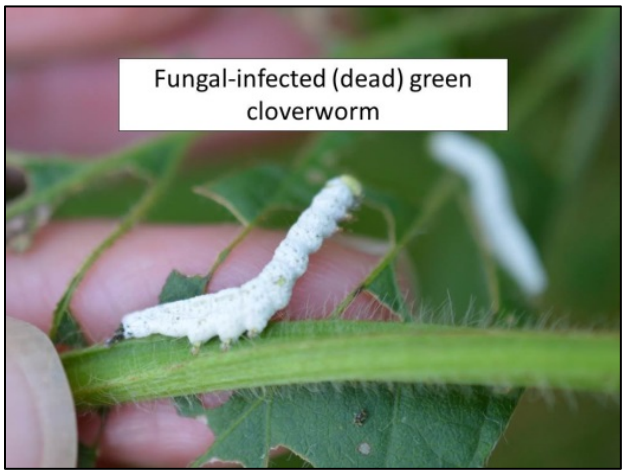
September 15, 2016 No 28

Soybean Pest Update (Green Cloverworms in Soybeans; Soybean Podworms; Woolybear Larvae; Stink Bugs)
Fungus Gnats in Sorghum
Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Soybean Pest Update

Green Cloverworms in Soybeans

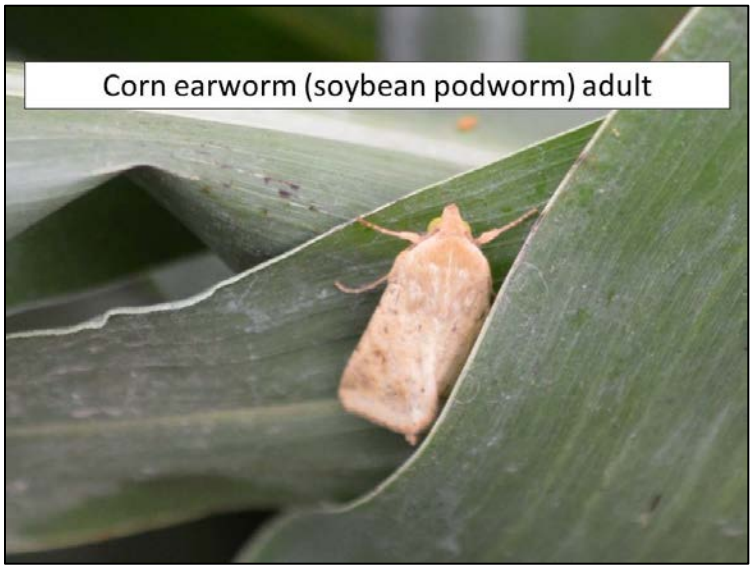
Remember a few weeks ago when there was considerable concern relative to all the green cloverworms causing irregular holes in leaves? Even skeletonizing some areas of some fields until treated with an insecticide and/or and entomopathogenic fungus started decimating the larval populations? Well, the surviving larvae pupated and now are annoying little aerodynamically shaped dark brown moths flying around lights at night or trying to get in through doors and windows.

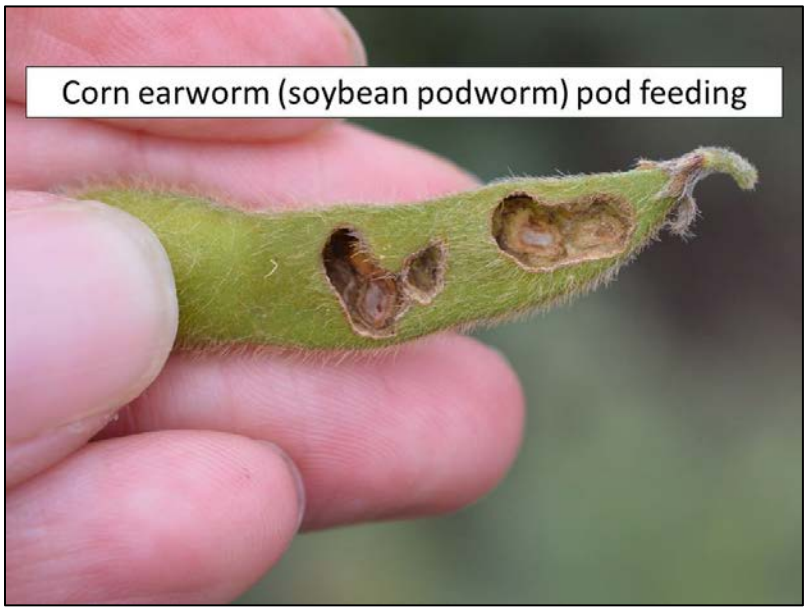


These moths will mate and then begin ovipositing in soybean and/or alfalfa fields. Eggs hatch in approximately 10-14 days and the larvae will again start feeding on leaves of either crop. By this time of year, the larval feeding is usually of little consequence relative to yield. However, really late planted soybeans, and all alfalfa fields, should be closely monitored to ensure leaf feeding in either crop does not affect pod fill in soybeans or leaf area in alfalfa.

Soybean Podworms

These insect pests seem to be on about the same developmental schedule as green cloverworms. So, late planted soybeans may be at risk for bean feeding within the pods.

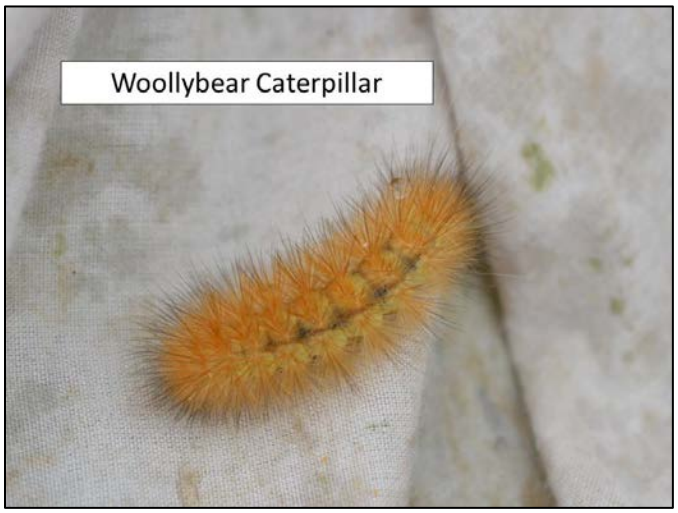




Adult bean leaf beetles, while probably not as numerous as in past years, may still be feeding on the pods themselves. This can cause yield reductions. For more information on bean leaf beetle biology and control, please visit: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2824.pdf

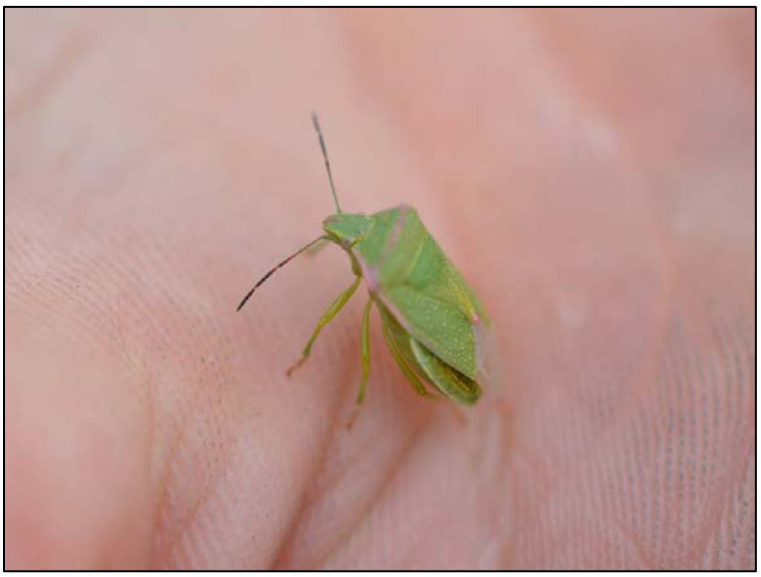
Woollybear Larvae

Another leaf feeder that can cause concern this time of year is woollybear caterpillars. There are several different species but all are foliage feeders although they rarely cause any economic problems.



Stink Bugs

Hopefully, most soybeans are past the stages that are succulent enough for stink bugs to be feeding on. However, there are still some late planted beans setting pods with seeds that may be vulnerable to stink bug feeding. So, until pods are turning yellow or brown, fields probably should continue to be monitored for soybean podworms, adult bean leaf beetles, and stink bugs.



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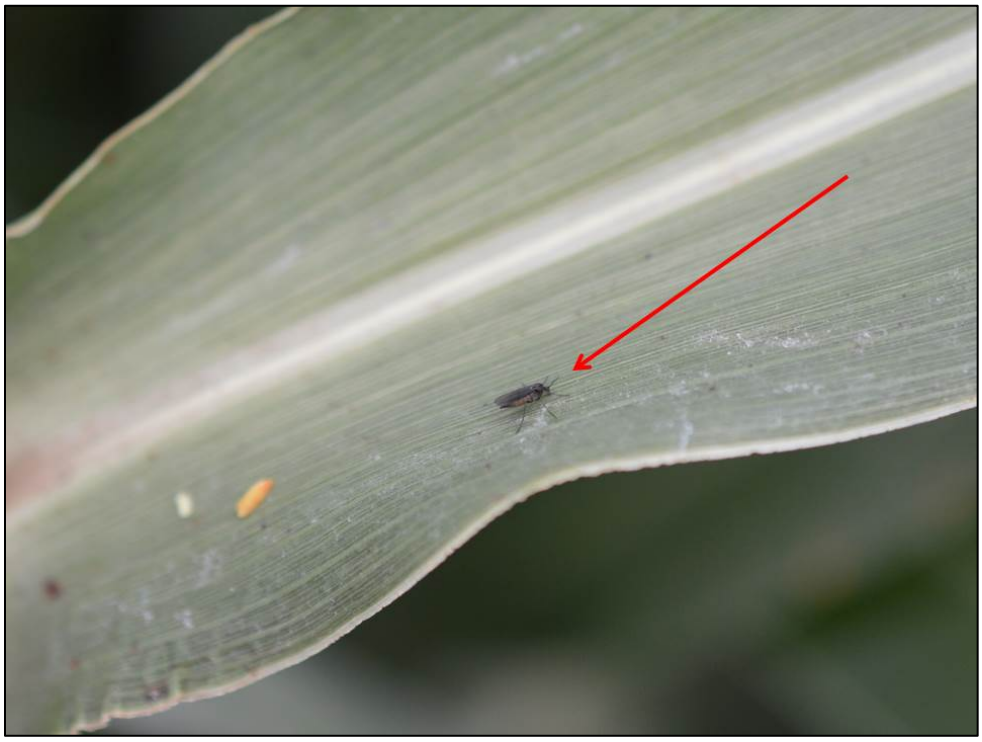
Fungus Gnats in Sorghum

We have had several calls this past week about large numbers small black flies/gnats on and around sorghum heads. These are not a pest of sorghum but a type of fungus gnat and are probably attracted to the fecal material left behind from sorghum headworms. In general, fungus gnats thrive in damp conditions and the larvae typically dwell in the soil where they feed on algae, fungi, and plant roots.



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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html

Eva Zurek

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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