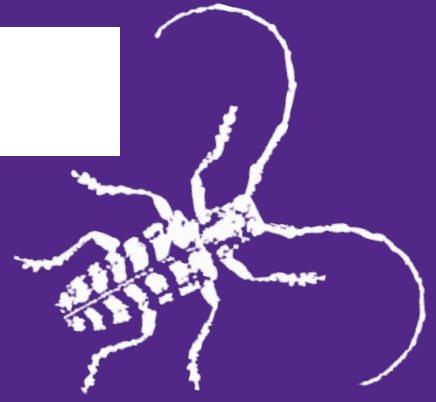


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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ID to last week's bug
Identify This Insect
Cattail Caterpillars
Volunteer Wheat
Bug Jokes of the Week

ID to last week's bug

Colorado potato beetle – The pictured insect is identified as a Colorado potato beetle. Both the larval and adult stages feed on potato (sometimes tomato, eggplant and pepper) causing extensive foliage loss, which can lead to decreased yields.

Can you identify this insect and tell what the host plant is?



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Integrated Pest Management

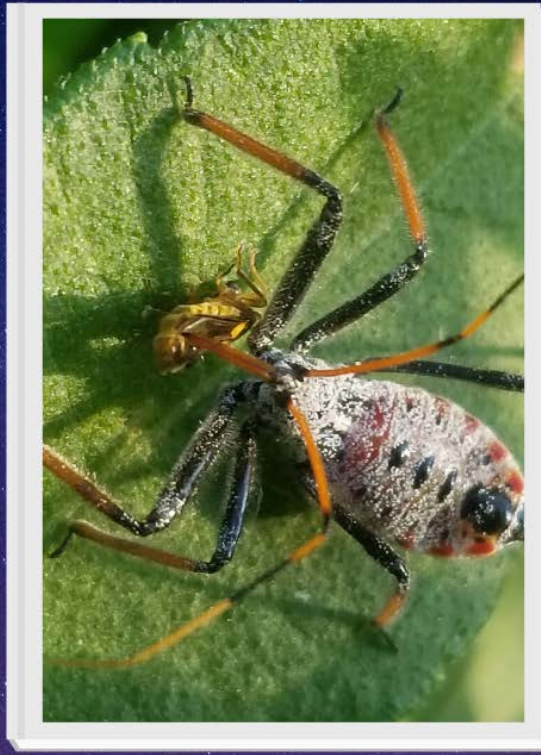
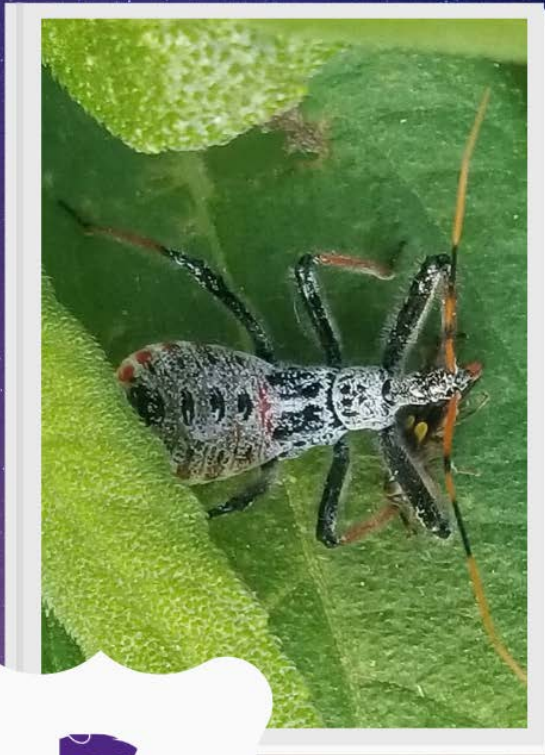
The complex block features a dark blue background. At the top, a white speech bubble contains the text 'Can you identify this insect and tell what the host plant is?'. Below this are two square photographs: the left one shows a single adult Colorado potato beetle with its characteristic yellow and black stripes on a green leaf; the right one shows a cluster of small, reddish-brown larvae on a green leaf. In the bottom left corner of the block is the K-State Research and Extension logo, which includes a stylized 'K' and the text 'K-STATE Research and Extension Integrated Pest Management'.

Frannie Miller

HOME

Identify This Insect

Can you identify this insect and what it will become as an adult?



Frannie Miller

CATTAIL CATERPILLARS

Cattail caterpillars are a perennial cause of concern throughout south central and north central Kansas. They are usually found on cattails, thus the name. However, every year some sorghum fields are infested. These infestations are usually most intense around field borders, and most especially in sorghum fields near water, i.e., a creek or pond, etc. The adult is a tan or dusky white, heavy bodied moth, which looks somewhat like a southwestern corn borer moth. The females usually start depositing eggs just about at the whorl stage of sorghum. However, the cattail caterpillar is rarely found within the whorl like "ragworms", i.e., corn earworms/fall armyworms/etc. are. The cattail caterpillar is mostly found on the leaves themselves but may add to the "ragging" up of the leaves after they unfurl from the whorl (fig. 1) due to their voracious leaf feeding. The cattail caterpillar is a relatively hairy but very distinctive larva with bright orange/white/and black body markings (figures 2 and 3). A relatively high percentage of the older, larger, more mature larvae have been found to be parasitized, thus stop feeding, become very sluggish, and eventually just die from these natural enemies of these caterpillars. There is no established treatment threshold.



Figure 1 "Ragging" up of the leaves (Tom Maxwell)



Figure 2 Cattail Caterpillar (Tom Maxwell)



Figure 3 Cattail Caterpillar feeding on the edge of the leaf (Tom Maxwell)

Jeff Whitworth

VOLUNTEER WHEAT

Frequent rains over the last few weeks throughout the eastern half of Kansas have really started germination of volunteer wheat (figures 4 and 5). This is the "green bridge" that most wheat pests rely upon for their existence, from the time last fall's planted crop matured until this fall's planted crop germinates. Thus, destroying volunteer wheat can really help mitigate most wheat pests.



Figure 4-5 "Green Bridge" of volunteer wheat (Cody Wyckoff)

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BUG JOKES OF THE WEEK

Q: What's scarier than being with a fool?

A: Fooling with a bee

Q: What does the queen bee do after a loud burp?

A: She issues a royal pardon.

Jeff Whitworth

HOME

Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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