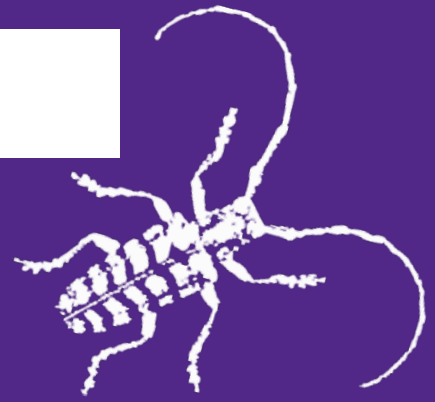


Department of Entomology  
123 West Waters Hall  
K-State Research and Extension  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506  
785-532-5891  
<http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/>  
<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension>



**August 17, 2022 No 16**

---

Mimosa Webworm  
Gorgone Checkerspot  
Video: How to control flies on livestock  
Blister Beetles  
Soybean Pests  
Bug Jokes of the Week

## Mimosa Webworm

Damage caused by mimosa webworm, *Homodaula anisocentra*, larvae/caterpillars is prevalent on honey locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, and mimosa, *Albizia julibrissin*, trees throughout most regions of Kansas. The larvae/caterpillars are 1/2 of an inch long when full-grown (Figure 1) and rapidly move backward when disturbed. Caterpillars' web leaves together on the ends of branches (Figure 2). Webbing typically starts at the tops of trees and protects caterpillars from natural enemies (parasitoids and predators) and insecticide spray applications. Heavily-infested trees are brown or scorched in appearance (Figures 3 through 5) as the caterpillars skeletonize the leaf tissue. Caterpillars eventually fall from trees on a silken strand before pupating. Mimosa webworm pupates in bark crevices or pupae are attached to structures (e.g. buildings). There are two generations per year in Kansas.

Figure 1. Mimosa webworm caterpillars feeding on leaves (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



# Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 17, 2022 No 16



Figure 2. Mimosa webworm webbing on end of branch (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 3. Mimosa webworm caterpillar feeding damage (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 4. Extensive feeding damage caused by mimosa webworm caterpillars (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 5. Extensive feeding damage caused by mimosa webworm caterpillars (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

At this time of year it is too late to apply an insecticide when trees are already heavily infested with webbing because caterpillars are protected from insecticide spray applications inside the leaf webbing. However, next year, you can manage mimosa webworm caterpillar populations by applying an insecticide when the caterpillars are initially present and exposed to insecticide spray applications. You can use insecticides that contain the following active ingredients: *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*, spinosad, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, and permethrin. Read the label of each product to ensure that “webworms” are listed. High-volume spray applications are required to contact the caterpillars. If possible, selective pruning can quickly remove isolated or localized infestations of mimosa webworm.

Raymond Cloyd, Horticultural Entomologist

---

[HOME](#)

## Gorgone Checkerspot

Have you noticed the leaves on your sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*, plant being fed upon by caterpillars (Figure 1)? If so, the caterpillar is the gorgone checkerspot, *Chlosyne gorgone*. The caterpillar ranges in color from black to orange, with a black head and spines or barbs covering the body (Figures 2 and 3). The caterpillars feed on sunflowers and other related plants. The caterpillars initially feed in groups (Figure 4) whereas later on the mature caterpillars, which are approximately 1.0 inch in length, feed individually (Figure 5). Third instar larvae eventually searches for a place to overwinter.

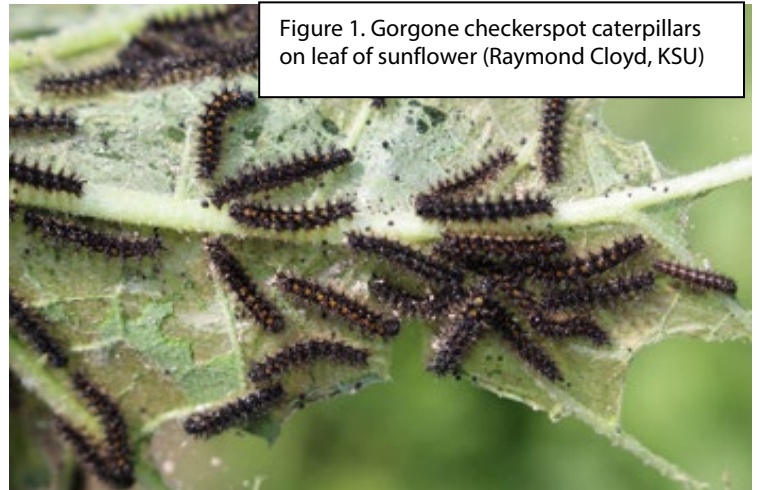


Figure 1. Gorgone checkerspot caterpillars on leaf of sunflower (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

If you see caterpillars feeding on sunflower leaves and your plants can tolerate some feeding damage, then just leave them alone as the caterpillars will eventually develop, by means of complete metamorphosis, into beautiful butterflies.

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 17, 2022 No 16

Figure 2. Gorgone checkerspot caterpillars (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

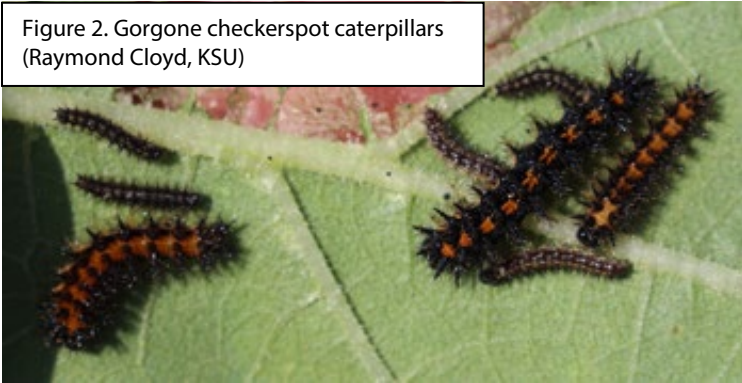


Figure 3. Gorgone caterpillar (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 4. Gorgone caterpillars feeding on sunflower leaf (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 5. Mature gorgone caterpillar (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Raymond Cloyd, Horticultural Entomologist

[HOME](#)

## Video: How to control flies on livestock

*K-State Research and Extension news service -- Released: July 27, 2022*

In this video, K-State Research and Extension veterinary entomologist Cassandra Olds outlines the best ways to control flies in livestock herds, a problem that she says “plagues most producers most years.”

While most people associate flies as one breed, there are actually four types that impact livestock herds: houseflies, horn flies, stable flies and face flies.

“Lucky for us, each fly has a preference for where it likes to be on the animal, or not on the animal,” Olds said, noting that horn flies prefer the animal’s back or belly; stable flies are common on the front legs; houseflies hang out around the feed bunk; and face flies are found on the animal’s face.

“Each fly can lay 100 eggs every couple days, so over her lifetime, she may lay 500 eggs,” Olds said. “So getting rid of adults is important, but getting rid of the places where they breed is more important. By knowing which fly pest you have, you can look for areas where these flies may be breeding.”

View the full video, including Olds’ recommendations for control, at <https://youtu.be/CruB4fINMKY>

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

K-State Veterinary Entomology, <https://www.veterinaryentomology.org/vetpestx>

K-State Research and Extension video by Dan Donnert  
785-532-5804  
[ddonnert@ksu.edu](mailto:ddonnert@ksu.edu)

**For more information:**  
Cassandra Olds  
[colds@ksu.edu](mailto:colds@ksu.edu)

---

Cassandra Olds -- Livestock and Veterinary Entomology

HOME

## Blister Beetles

If you are growing Swiss chard, *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*, in your vegetable garden, you may be encountering leaf feeding damage caused by the adult stage of two blister beetle species: the ashgray blister beetle, *Epicauta fabricii* (Figure 1), and the threestriped blister beetle, *Epicauta lemniscata* (Figure 2). Both can cause extensive plant damage (Figure 3) and leave black fecal deposits (“poop”) on plant leaves (Figure 4). The best way to deal with these insect pests is to remove the adults by hand and place into a container of soapy water. Be sure to wear gloves when handling blister beetle adults because they can emit a substance called cantharadin that may cause blisters when in contact with the skin.

Figure 1. Ashgray blister beetle adult (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 2. Threestriped blister beetle adult (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

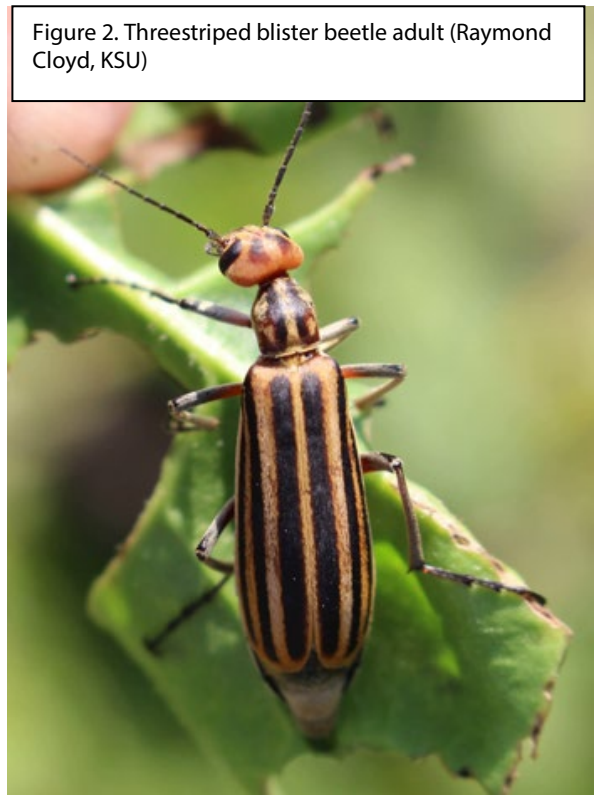
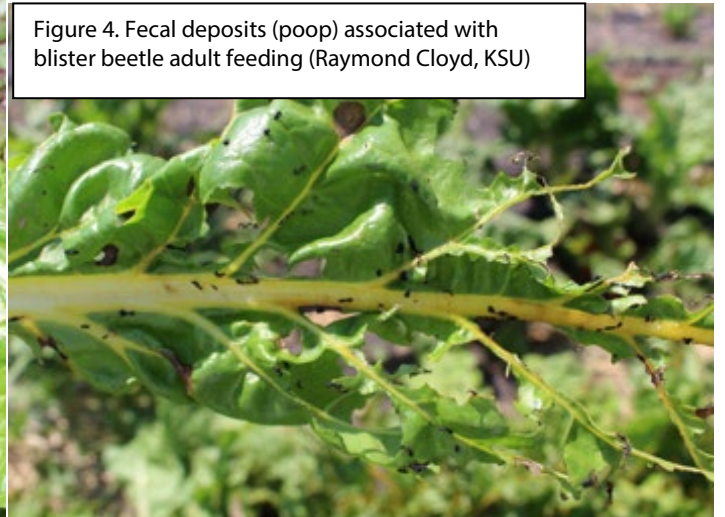


Figure 3. Extensive plant damage to Swiss chard caused by adult blister beetle feeding (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 4. Fecal deposits (poop) associated with blister beetle adult feeding (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



---

Raymond Cloyd – Horticultural Entomologist

[HOME](#)

## Soybean Pests

The ongoing hot dry conditions seem to be starting to significantly stress many dryland crops. Then when you add in the stress of an insect pest it can really cause problems. Right now, blister beetles and *Dectes* stem borers are very active and causing concerns. Many growers seem to be confusing the two--adult *Dectes* with blister beetles--with good reason, as some blister beetle adults are similarly colored and shaped somewhat like adult stem borers. The two blister beetles most commonly confused with *Dectes* stem borer adults are shown here at the top, and just above (see fig. 1) a stem borer adult (photo by JR Ewing). Blister beetles may cause some defoliation by eating leaf tissue but it is usually insignificant. However, *Dectes* are currently still depositing eggs in soybean petioles, and have been for 2-3 weeks, where the small larvae hatch and start boring into the stem, most often causing the stem to die (see fig 2). However, the larvae

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 17, 2022 No 16

---

continue this tunneling/boring into the main stem (see fig 3) and eventually end up just below ground where they remain through the winter. (Figures 2 & 3 pictures provided by Sean Mills)



Figure 1: Two adult blister beetles on the top-adult and adult Dectes stem borer at the bottom left.



Figure 2: Crop damage from Dectes stem borers





Figure 3: Tunneling/boring stem damage

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crop Entomologist

---

[HOME](#)

## Bug Jokes of the Week

Question: What types of food do most fireflies eat?

Answer: they just eat light snacks off and on!

After studying wasps for many years I have decided most are really just wanna-bees!

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crop Entomologist

---

[HOME](#)

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 17, 2022 No 16

---

Sincerely,

Brian P. McCornack, PhD  
Dept Head & Professor  
Field Crops  
Kansas State University  
P: (785) 477-0066  
E: [mccornac@ksu.edu](mailto:mccornac@ksu.edu)

Jeff Whitworth  
Extension Specialist  
Field Crops  
phone: 785/532-5656  
e-mail: [jwhitwor@ksu.edu](mailto:jwhitwor@ksu.edu)

Raymond A. Cloyd  
Professor and Extension Specialist  
Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management  
Phone: 785-532-4750  
Fax: 785-532-6232  
e-mail: [rcloyd@ksu.edu](mailto:rcloyd@ksu.edu)

Cassandra Olds  
Assistant Professor  
Livestock & Veterinary entomology  
Phone: (509) 715-7611  
e-mail: [colds@ksu.edu](mailto:colds@ksu.edu)

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 17, 2022 No 16

---

**KANSAS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Department of Entomology

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact *LOCAL NAME, PHONE NUMBER*. (For TDD, contact Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 785-532-4807.)

## **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, , Ernie Minton, Director.