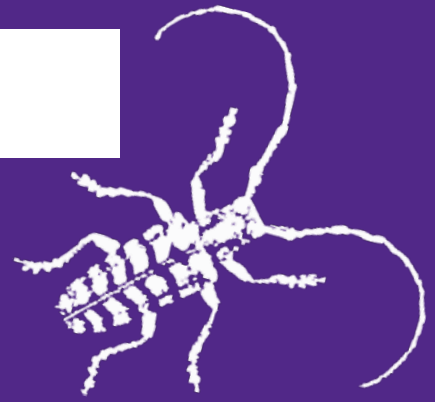


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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Army Cutworm Moths Still Flying in Southwest Kansas
Insect Diagnostics 2022 Season Summary

Army Cutworm Moths Still Flying in Southwest Kansas

Noticeable numbers of army cutworm moths, also called Miller moths, have been observed in a couple locations in western Kansas this year. Army cutworms are late fall and early spring pests of several Kansas crops, especially wheat. These moths begin migrating into Kansas and neighboring states in the fall from their over-summering locations in the Rocky Mountains. This year, moths began showing up in western Kansas during the first week of September. In the last six weeks, over 1600 moths have been collected in pheromone traps at a location in Finney County. Trap counts of 800 or more moths in an area may indicate increased caterpillar activity the following spring. Right now, females will be laying eggs on the soil surface of freshly cultivated, weedy or newly seeded winter wheat fields. Each female can lay up to 1000 eggs or more. After hatching, caterpillars will begin feeding and do so until cold weather forces them below ground. However, it is possible for them to resume feeding on warmer winter days. Caterpillars will complete their growth next spring and then burrow into the soil to pupate. Sexually immature adults emerge in late spring and migrate back to the mountains for summer. Fields should be scouted during warm periods between February and April. Fields under stressful conditions, such as the current drought, may suffer economic damage with only 1-2 caterpillars per square foot. Typically, treatment will not be necessary until populations average 4-5 per square foot and well-tillered fields under good growing

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conditions can tolerate up to 10 per square foot without measurable yield loss. More information regarding control options for this pest in wheat and other crops can be found in the KSRE Insect Management Guides.

Army cutworm moths in a pheromone trap in Finney County



Anthony Zukoff – Southwest Research & Extension Center – Garden City, KS

[HOME](#)

Insect Diagnostics 2022 Season Summary

Insect diagnostic services are available to members of the public seeking assistance identifying an insect or suspected insect related problems. The Insect Diagnostics ID Request Form can be accessed online and after providing observation information such as location and date of the sighting along with answering a set of questions intended to help with the identification process, one can then upload up to 3 photos and submit the form. The inquiry is then forwarded on to one of the entomology extension specialists. Within a few days, usually less than two, the identity of the insect along with appropriate life history information and/or control measures is then sent to the client by email or phone. The online submission process takes only a few minutes and can be accessed with desktop computers and mobile devices.

During the 2022 season, Insect Diagnostics has processed 54 inquiries from 2 states. Identification requests fell into several categories, from requests out of general curiosity to much more specific identification needs. The Home/Structural and General categories contained the bulk of the season's inquiries (Figure 1). During the season, a variety of clientele reached out to our program for identification assistance. Homeowner's submitted the most requests, however, government entities, commercial pest control and horticultural services utilized our service as well (Figure 2).

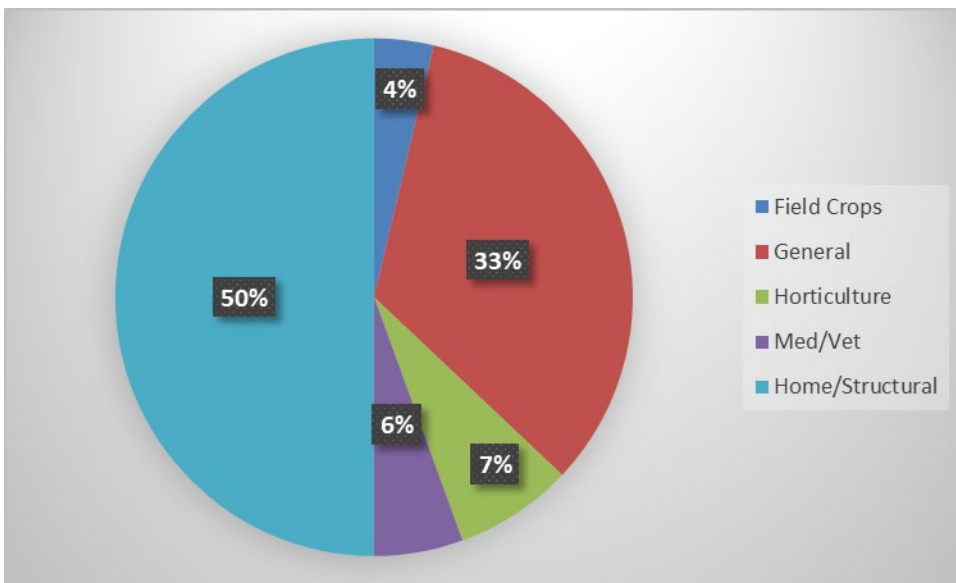


Figure 1. Percent of total inquiries received for each request category during the 2022 season.

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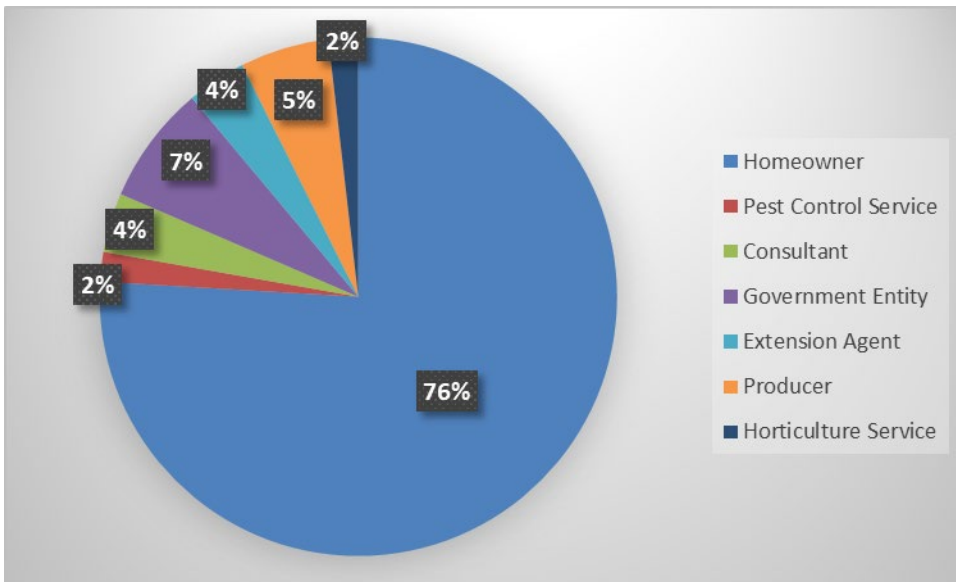


Figure 2. Percent of total inquiries received from each clientele category during the 2022 season.

Insects identified this season varied greatly. The colorful nymphs of green stink bugs caught quite a few homeowners' eye this year and several instances of Kissing Bugs being found in homes caused concern (Figure 3). The end of the season was dominated by many homeowners requesting identification of elm leaf beetles which have begun searching for overwintering spots inside homes and barns.



Figure 3. One of several Triatomine bugs ("Kissing Bugs") submitted this year. A vector of Chagas Disease in extreme southerly locations of the United States and the tropics, but not of concern in Kansas.

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The main season for insect activity may be ending, but the Insect Diagnostics Program will continue to operate and accept online inquiries throughout the fall and winter. If you need insect identification assistance, submit a request at <https://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/>.

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HOME

Sincerely,

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[Need an insect identified? Visit the Insect Diagnostics Program Website](#)



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

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