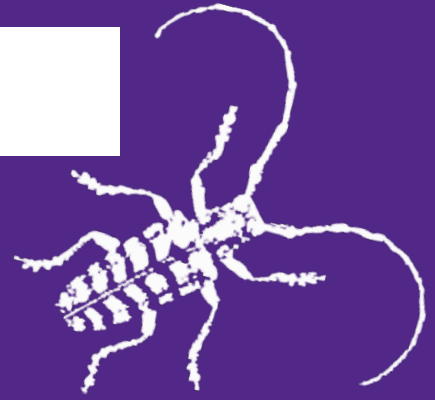


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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May 20, 2022 No 5

Insect Pests of Vegetable Crops
Bagworms... Getting Close!
Insect Diagnostics 2022 Season Has Begun
Insect Art Contest Explores the Benefits of Insect
Termites
Bug Joke of the Week

Insect Pests of Vegetable Crops

There are several insect pests currently feeding on plants in vegetable gardens including:

Colorado potato beetle, *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*, adults feeding on potato plants (Figure 1); harlequin bug, *Murgantia histrionica*, adults mating and feeding on horseradish plants (Figure 2); and flea beetle adults feeding on potato plants (Figure 3). There are extension publications for the Colorado potato beetle and harlequin bug available with the links provided below:

Colorado potato beetle: insect pest of vegetable crops (MF3541)

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3541.pdf>

Harlequin bug (MF3135)

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3135.pdf>



Figure 1. Colorado potato beetle adult (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

Figure 2. Harlequin bug adults mating (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Figure 3. Flea beetle adults feeding on potato leaves (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



These extension publications provide information on management strategies that can be implemented to avoid or minimize plant damage associated with Colorado potato beetle and harlequin bug. For flea beetle adults, you can contact your county horticulture agent for information on management strategies including the insecticides that can be applied to manage flea beetle adult populations.

For more information on managing insect pests in your vegetable garden contact your county horticulture agent or a state extension specialist.

Raymond Cloyd, Horticultural Entomology

[HOME](#)

Bagworms...Getting Close!

We are getting close to the time when the 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch bags associated with the bagworm, *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*, will be present on broadleaf and evergreen trees and shrubs. Therefore, be prepared to take action against bagworms once they are observed on plants. Although bagworm caterpillars primarily feed on conifers, they also feed on a wide-range of host plants including many broadleaf plants, such as; elm, flowering plum, hackberry, honey locust, linden, maple, oak, rose, sycamore, and wild cherry. It is important to apply insecticides when bagworms are 1/4 of an inch long or less (Figure 1) to maximize effectiveness of insecticide applications and subsequently reduce plant damage.



Many insecticides are labeled for use against bagworms, however, the insecticides that can be used to manage populations of bagworms early in the season are *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* and spinosad. These active ingredients are commercially available and sold under various trade names. The bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*, is only active on young bagworm caterpillars and must be consumed or ingested to kill bagworm caterpillars. Therefore, thorough coverage of all plant parts and frequent applications are required. The insecticide is sensitive to ultra-violet light degradation and rainfall, which can reduce residual activity. Spinosad is the active ingredient in several homeowner products, including Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew and Monterey Garden Insect Spray. The insecticide works through contact and ingestion, however, the insecticide is most effective when ingested by young bagworm caterpillars. The key to managing bagworms with these insecticides is to apply the insecticides early and frequently enough to kill the highly susceptible young caterpillars feeding on plant foliage. Applying insecticides weekly for four to five weeks when bagworms are first noticed will reduce problems with bagworms later in the year.

Bagworms commonly start feeding on the tops of trees and shrubs. Therefore, thorough coverage of all plant parts and frequent applications are important in managing bagworm populations. The reason

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 20, 2022 No 5

multiple applications are required is that bagworm caterpillars do not emerge (eclose) from eggs simultaneously but emerge over time depending on temperature. In addition, young bagworms can be 'blown in' (called 'ballooning') from neighboring plants on silken threads. If left unchecked, bagworms can cause substantial plant damage, thus ruining the aesthetic quality of plants. Furthermore, bagworms can kill plants (especially newly transplanted small evergreens), because evergreens usually do not produce another flush of growth after being fed upon or defoliated by bagworms.

If you have any questions on how to manage bagworms in your garden or landscape contact your county horticultural agent, or university-based or state extension entomologist. You can also read the following extension publication on bagworms:

Cloyd, R. A. 2019. Bagworm: insect pest of trees and shrubs. Kansas State University

Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. Kansas State University; Manhattan, KS. MF3474. 4 pgs.

<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3474.pdf>

Raymond Cloyd, Horticultural Entomology

HOME

Insect Diagnostics 2022 Has Begun

In May of 2021, the Insect Diagnostics program was brought back into service in an all new digital format. Members of the public seeking assistance identifying an insect can access the Insect Diagnostics ID Request Form online. After providing observation information such as location and date of the sighting, followed by 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. If you need insect identification assistance, submit a request at <https://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/>.

Anthony Zukoff-Entomology, Southwest Research & Extension Center—Garden City, KS

HOME

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 20, 2022 No 5

Insect Art Contest Explores the Benefits of Insects

The Kansas State Research and Extension Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Education program is wrapping up their third year of the Insect Art Contest. The theme this year was the “Benefits of Insects” and the goal was to explore how insects are beneficial to us and society. A total of 179 entries were received from youth across the state. The entries were submitted in four age categories and a panel of judges selected the top four entries in each age range. The entries were then posted for the public to vote on the winners.

The overall category winners for the 2022 Insect Art Contest, based on age group, are listed below:

Winner: Katherine Nusser



CATEGORY: KINDERGARTEN - 2ND

K-STATE Research and Extension | Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Education

Winner: Eva Eilders



CATEGORY: 3rd - 5th

K-STATE Research and Extension | Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Education

Winner: Gage Lawson



CATEGORY: 6th - 8th

K-STATE Research and Extension | Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Education

Winner: Aleksis Snowden



CATEGORY: 9th - 12th

K-STATE | Integrated Pest Management
Research and Extension | and Pesticide Safety Education

Please help us congratulate these talented and artistic students! Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/KSRE-Pesticide-Safety-and-Integrated-Pest-Management-Program-109039044075447> to see the rest of the winners.

Frannie Miller – Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator

HOME

Termites

Termites have been "swarming" around the state for about the past 2 weeks. Apparently weather conditions this year have been conducive to this behavior which has caused considerable concern--especially since it has been a couple of years since we have seen, or had any reports of, this swarming activity (actually, since 2019). Termites have usually swarmed about 10 days after the 1st warm spring rains, which have generally occurred in April. But we have seen termites swarm in late February to early June, depending upon the weather. Since termite swarms are more common this year a little refresher is apparently needed to help answer some questions. Adult termites (see figs 1 & 2), the "swarmer's", are relatively easy to distinguish from ant "swarmer's". Termite adults have 4 wings of equal size--ants have hind wings smaller than their front wings; adult termites are dark brown/black with a more cigar shaped body--ant swarmer's have a distinct "waist"; termite swarmer's have straight antennae--ants have bent or elbowed antennae. Also, often at the site where the termite swarmer's are issuing there may be a few white termite workers and/or soldiers

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 20, 2022 No 5

(see figs 3 & 4) whereas ants do not have these white soft bodied individuals present. For more information, please see "Household Pests of Kansas: MF 3291. All pictures courtesy of David Hallauer.



Figure 1: Termite "swarmer"



Fig 2: Termite swarmer

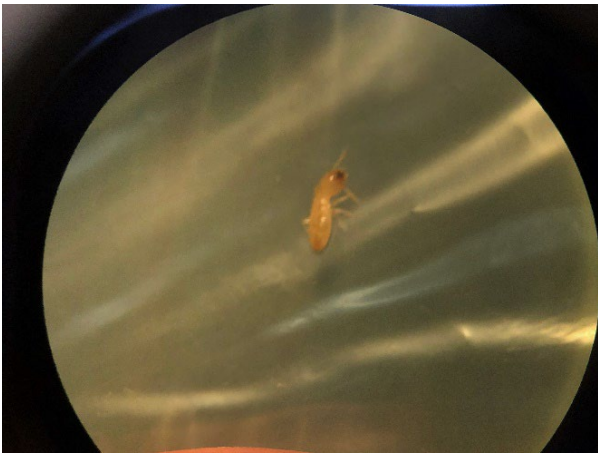


Figure 3: Soldier termite



Figure 4: Soldier termite

Jeff Whitworth—Field Crop Entomology

[HOME](#)

Bug Joke of the Week

WHAT DO YOU CALL A BEE THAT CAN'T MAKE UP ITS MIND?



A MAYBE!

Sharon Schroll

HOME

Sincerely,

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Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 20, 2022 No 5

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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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