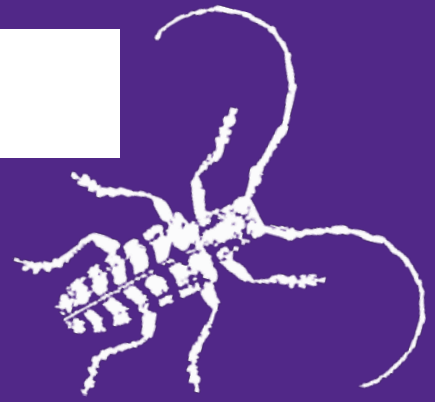


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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October 25, 2024, No. 32

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- Insect Diagnostics Season Summary

NEWS CORNER

Chinch bugs

First generation chinch bugs migrating out of wheat into adjacent seedling sorghum has historically been a serious problem every year in the eastern half of Kansas. The second generation of chinch bugs on established sorghum plants is becoming much more widespread in central and western KS, and is harder to control because: 1) the bugs are distributed throughout the field, because nymphs are hatching from eggs laid on the plants, rather than invading on foot from a neighboring field, 2) the bugs have more hiding places on the large plants, and 3) it is harder to get good coverage on large plants, which is essential for contact insecticides like the pyrethroids in the test. However, in the last four years, they seem to be even more problematic based upon personal observation and grower/consultants' reports. The ever

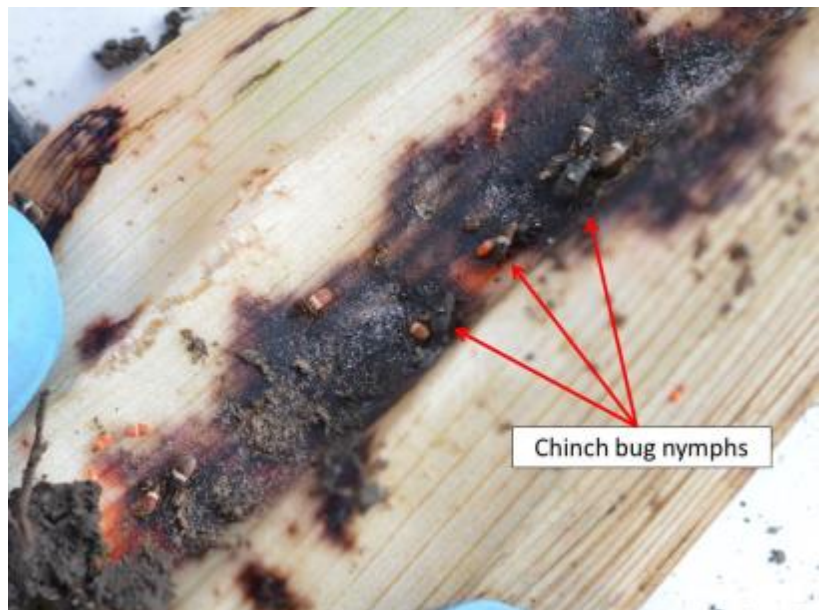


Figure 1. Chinch bug nymphs.

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increasing hot, dry conditions have also added to this stress caused by chinch bug feeding.

Chinch bug management is difficult at best, but growing dryland sorghum the last few years has been challenging because of the weather coupled with chinch bug feeding. Chinch bugs are difficult to control, especially when the nymphs (fig.1) are mainly found around the base of the plant behind leaf sheaths. Therefore, a small trial was conducted to test 2 different amounts of water/carrier with 2 registered insecticides to determine if gallonage (amount of carrier-H₂O in this case) could make a difference (see table 1) managing chinch bugs. For more information related to chinch bug management, please see the [KSRE Sorghum Insect Pest Management Guide, 2024](#).

Table 1. Number of Chinch bugs/2 plants in 10 minutes

Treatment	Rep I		Rep II		Rep III		Rep IV	
	4 DAT	7 DAT	4 DAT	7 DAT	4 DAT	7 DAT	4 DAT	7 DAT
Fastac 8 gal/a	20	20	17	18	30	26	32	25
Fastac 20 gal/a	24	17	20	16	24	21	21	18
Mustang Maxx 8 gal/a	30	28	38	41	30	21	31	22
Mustang Maxx 20 gal/a	29	25	19	23	18	14	26	21
Untreated	41	61	53	61	48	70	61	66

DAT=Days after Treatment

To browse other efficacy trials, you can go to <https://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/crop-protection/efficacy-trials/>.

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crop Entomology
Amie Norton – Nanotechnology Entomology

HOME

DIAGNOSTIC CORNER: KANSAS INSECT ID AND PEST SOLUTIONS

Insect Diagnostics 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 examined by the diagnostician. 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.

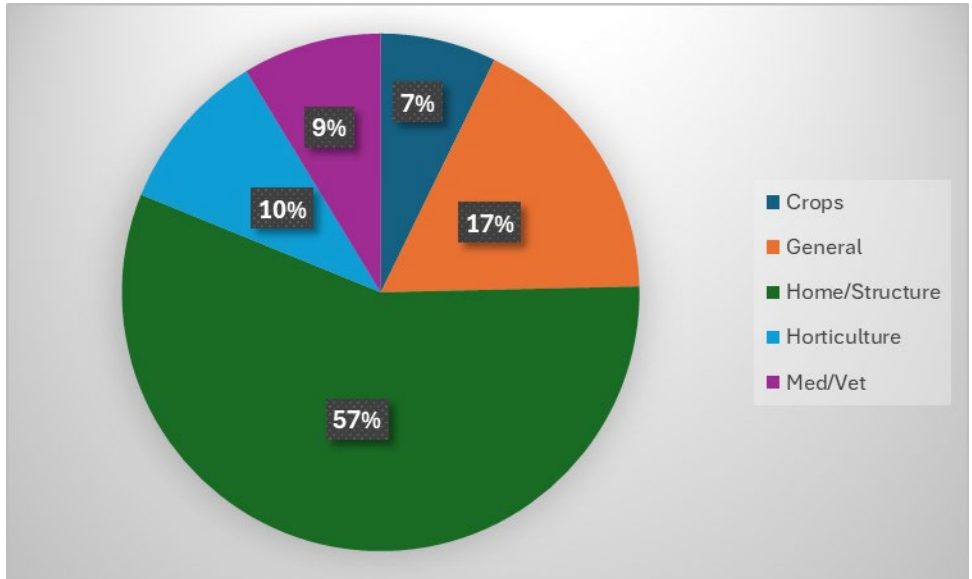


Figure 1. Percent of total inquiries received for each request category during the 2024 season.

During the 2024 growing season, Insect Diagnostics processed 69 inquiries from 3 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. Homeowners submitted the most requests, however, extension agents, commercial pest control, agricultural producers, agribusiness and government organizations utilized our service as well (Figure 2).

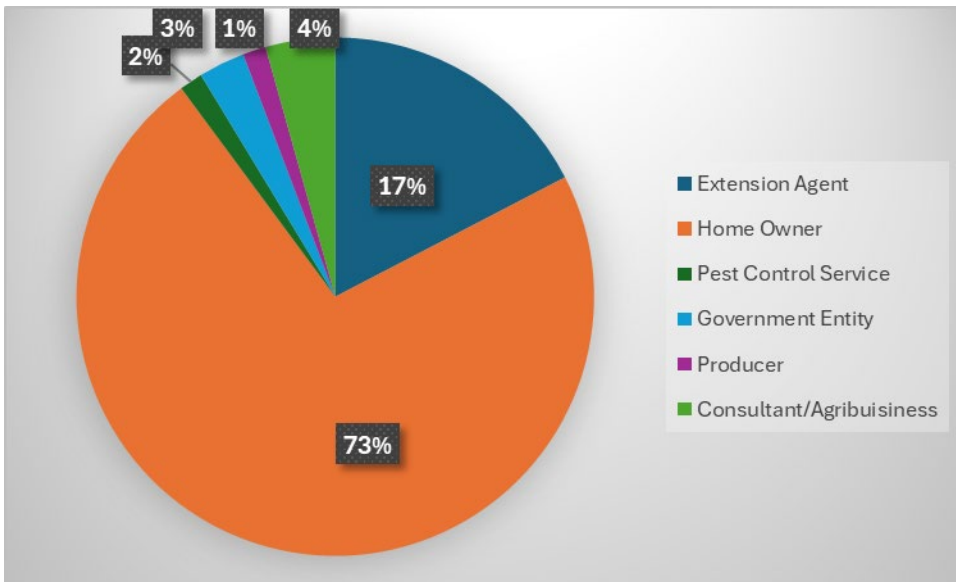


Figure 2. Percent of total inquiries received from each clientele category during the 2024 season.

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/>.

Anthony Zukoff—Southwest Research and Extension Center – Garden City, KS

[HOME](#)

Sincerely,

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

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Visit entomology.ksu.edu/extension to explore our extension resources.

[What do you think about our newsletter? Send us your feedback here!](#)



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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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