

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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

August 22, 2014 No 19

Tell us what you think!



Members of the Entomology Department

REMINDER! We are asking for your feedback. The purpose of this survey is to understand and document the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and/or challenges of providing you timely information through our Kansas Insect Newsletter (KIN). We welcome your feedback! By participating, you will assist in creating an improved user experience.

To participate, please use the following link (or copy and paste this link into your browser):

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3sA78uPsPabBJD7

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and is completely confidential. No comments will be shared that would personally identify you. Thank you, in advance, for completing this survey. Your input is extremely valuable, and we truly appreciate your time in assisting in this important evaluation process. If you have any questions please, contact Brian McCornack at mccornac@ksu.edu. Please complete this survey by August 29, 2014.

Brian McCornack

Yellow Jacket Season is Here

In the past two weeks an increasing number of calls have been received regarding honey bees, or aggressive honey bees at various K-State offices. Follow-up on these calls have revealed that these are not honey bees, but yellow jackets. Yellow jackets tend to begin most of their noticeable scavenging beginning around mid-August continuing until the fall weather turns cold.

Yellow jacket wasps are $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length and can resemble honey bees from a distance, but have a few distinctions. Yellow jackets are more likely to be around human food, pet food, and compost piles. They tend to nest in the ground, but can also be found in house cavities, tree cavities, or in compost piles which have not been disturbed. Honey bees have more hairs and are usually duller in color.

If you encounter a yellow jacket nest, it is best to leave the area. Yellow jackets are more likely to sting when a nest is near. They will also sting when trying to be swatted at or if accidentally encountered when drinking soda from a can they've crawled into.

To prevent encounters, remove attractive sources of food. Keep pet food covered or indoors, especially when not in use. Seal garbage cans and empty regularly. Pick up and dispose of ripe fruit. If you must move something in the area of a nest, it is recommended to do this before dawn or after dusk when yellow jackets are less active.

Photos are from the All Florida Bee Removal website.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19



Yellow Jacket



Honey Bee

Sharon Dobesh

Soybean Aphids

Soybean aphids were first reported last week from NE Kansas (See Kansas Insect Newsletter Issue #17, 15 Aug, 2014). This week soybean aphids have been found in several fields in NC Kansas, and have been reported also in very small populations from SC Kansas. All infestations thus far have been scattered and densities very light, i.e. 2-10 aphids on a few plants throughout some fields (see photo 1). There is probably little reason to worry about soybean aphids this late in the growing season, however, there are many late planted and/or double cropped beans that still have considerable developing to do before maturity. So, if weather conditions are conducive to soybean aphid reproduction, and soybean growing conditions are less than ideal, they may still cause some concern. Field scouting should continue for another 3-4 weeks depending upon the developmental stage of the soybeans. There are considerable numbers of potato leafhoppers in most of the fields we have sampled. Ensure you distinguish between potato leafhoppers, their nymphs, and the soybean aphid when scouting fields (see photo 2). If soybean aphids are detected, please e-mail Dr. Brian McCornack ASAP – mccornac@ksu.edu.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19



Photo 1



Photo 2

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

Sorghum Headworm

It is important to monitor flowering/heading sorghum fields for corn earworm, aka: sorghum headworm. Flowering sorghum heads sampled on 21 August indicated approximately 25% of the heads infested with various sizes of larvae (see photo). Remember, generally, one larva can cause approximately 5% seed loss per head if left to feed from egg hatch to pupation. Sorghum is most vulnerable from about flowering until soft dough. There are many growth stages of sorghum around right now thus monitoring for headworms should continue until the soft dough stage in each field.



Chinch Bugs

There are also a few chinch bugs in some of the sorghum fields in NC Kansas. These bugs are feeding behind the last leaf sheath between the peduncle and head and are sometimes noticeable due to the red or purplish spots on the plants. Populations have not been sufficient yet to cause problems with the grain, however, if the hot, dry conditions continue and the bug population increases, they may be responsible for late season lodging due to feeding around the base of the plant which weakens the stalk and can cause lodging.

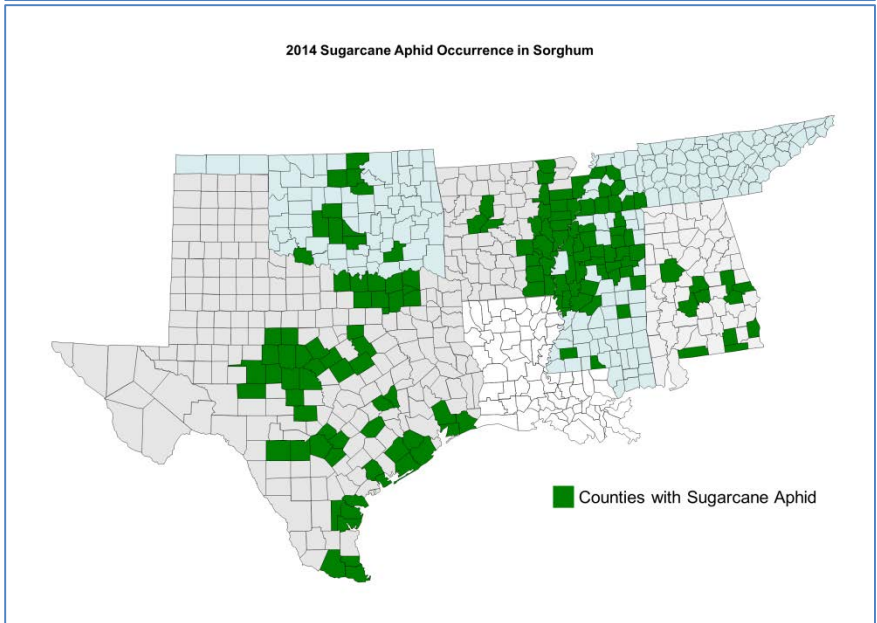
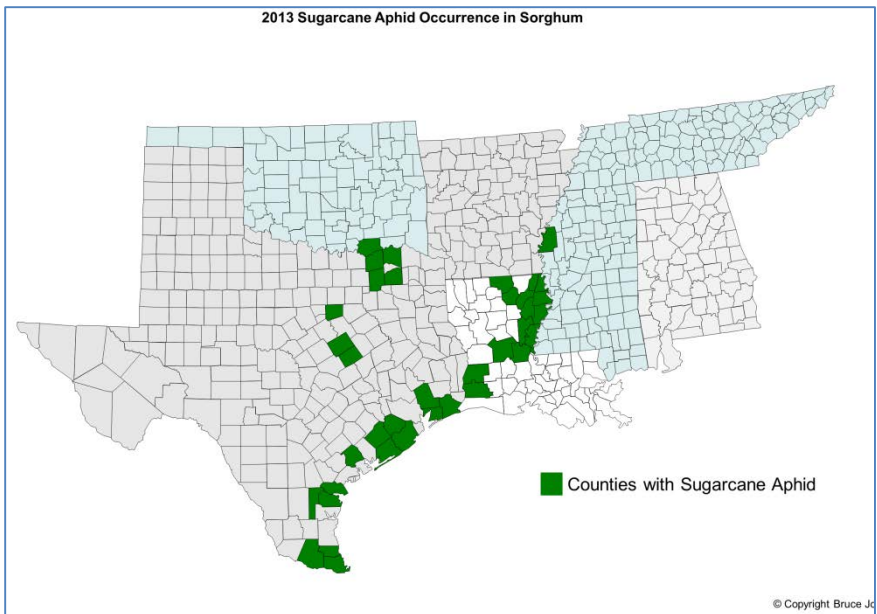


Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

Sugarcane/ Sorghum Aphid

Sugarcane or sometimes called sorghum aphids, *Melanaphis sacchari*, have never been detected in Kansas. However, as illustrated by the two maps provided by Dr. Bob Bowling, Texas A&M Extension Specialist in Entomology, these aphids have moved considerably north and west in one year. If these aphids are detected in your area please email Dr. Brian McCornack ASAP – mccornac@ksu.edu. Sugarcane or sorghum aphids are relatively distinctly colored yellow with black cornicles (tailpipes), and apparently produce copious quantities of honeydew. They also can reportedly cause yield reduction and/or hinder harvest just because of the amount of honeydew they can produce.



Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

Sunflower Defoliation

Thistle caterpillars (become Painted Lady butterflies) did a pretty thorough job of defoliating this sunflower plant. However, it will probably not affect yield all that much because of the timing of the infestation relative to plant maturity. Caterpillars pupated -- not sprayed.



Volunteer Wheat

These photos indicate the amount of volunteer wheat that has germinated within the last 2 weeks in many fields. This provides much wheat to act as a host for all wheat pests until the commercial varieties germinate this fall. All volunteer wheat needs to be killed, as much as possible, at least 2 weeks prior to planted wheat germinating. (photos taken 21 Aug)

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19



Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis-Schwartz

Kansas Insect Newsletter

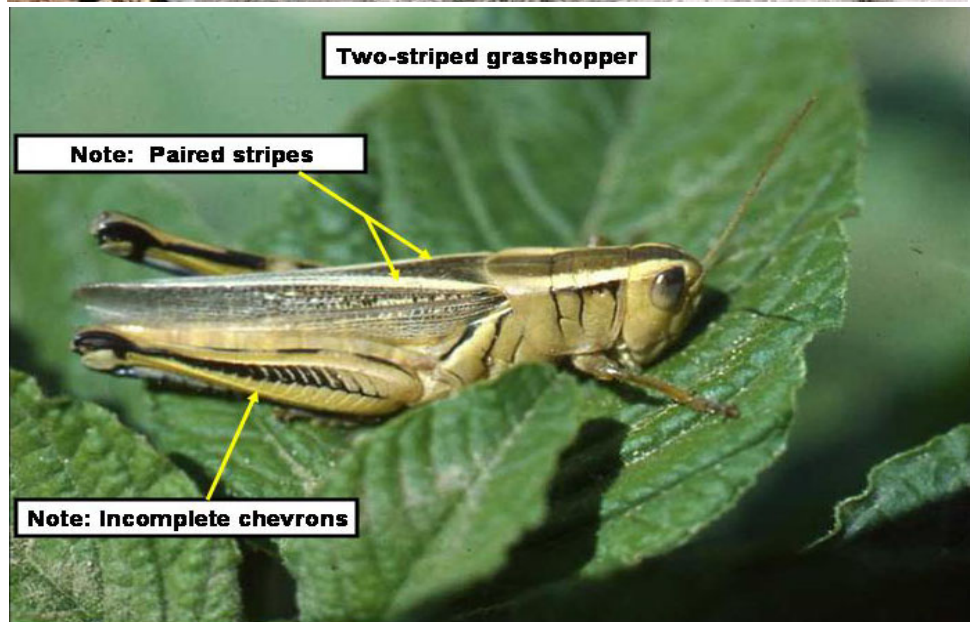
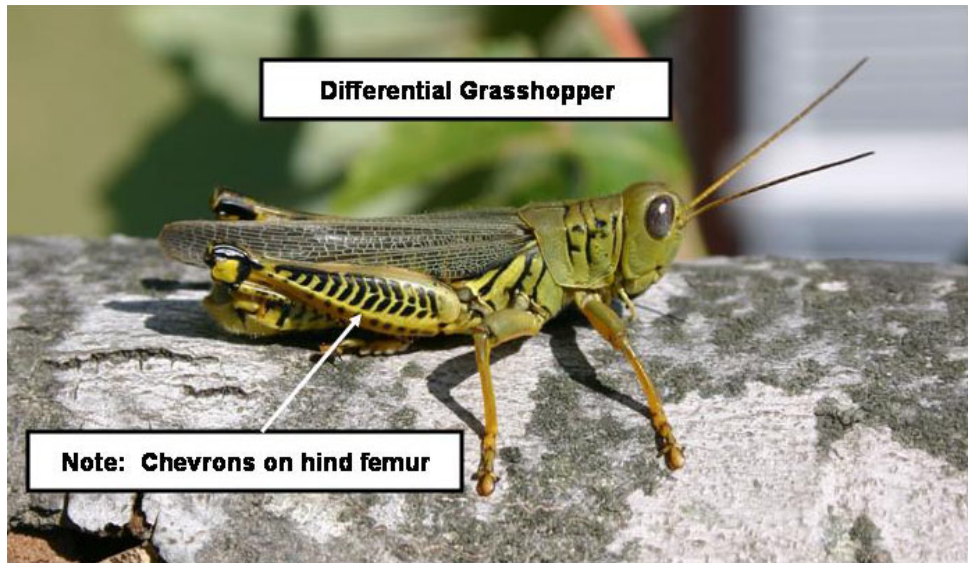
August 22, 2014 No 19

A Sign of “That Time of Year” – Calls and Complaints Regarding Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers were addressed in Kansas Insect Newsletter #13. At that time they were small nibblers. In the intervening 1½ months, they have matured into “eating machine” adults who sustain themselves by consuming “greenery” in rangeland, field, garden and landscape settings.

Not all grasshoppers are “bad grasshoppers”. Of the in-excess of 100 species found in Kansas, only several are considered to be of economic importance. Homeowners are most familiar with the 2 largest, colorful and distinctly marked species: differential grasshoppers and 2-striped grasshoppers. As previously stated, at this time of year, they are mature and highly mobile ---- winged and capable of traveling great distances in search of the best-salad-bar-in-the-neighborhood.

Control efforts may be disappointing. While an initial insecticide application may eliminate those currently present, people become dismayed at their reappearance, often stating that the treatments were ineffective. The more likely explanation is that the grasshoppers that the sprays contacted were killed (if one checks, you may see their carcasses on the ground, or may not see them as they moved away and died outside of the target zone). However, a newly arrived batch (seeking a palatable food source) moved in from adjacent untreated areas. Grasshopper populations will dwindle after they have deposited overwintering eggs and they naturally die off sometime in Fall (no definite timetable).



Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

The Final Score ---- Bagworms 8, Junipers 2

At this time of year, people are sick and tired of bagworm activities. And this likely will be the last time that they are included in the 2014 Kansas Insect Newsletter.

Bagworms
0

Junipers
10



Bagworms
4

Junipers
6



Still
Bagworms
4

Junipers
6



Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

Final
Score

Bagworms
8

Junipers
2



Bob Bauernfeind

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

<http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html>

Eva Zurek

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bauernfeind
Extension Specialist
Horticultural Entomology
phone: 785/532-4752
e-mail: rbauernf@ksu.edu

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

Holly Davis-Schwarting
Research Associate
Phone: (785) 532-4739
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 22, 2014 No 19

Brian McCornack
Assistant Professor/Extension Entomologist
Kansas State University
Field Crops and Mobile Technology
Phone: 785/532-4729
email: mccornac@ksu.edu

Sharon Dobesh
GPDN Associate Director (GPDN is Great Plains Diagnostic Network)
Honey Bee Specialist
Phone: (785) 532-1340
email: sdobesh@ksu.edu

Eva Zurek
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4710
e-mail: ezurek@ksu.edu



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. John D. Floros, Director.