

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



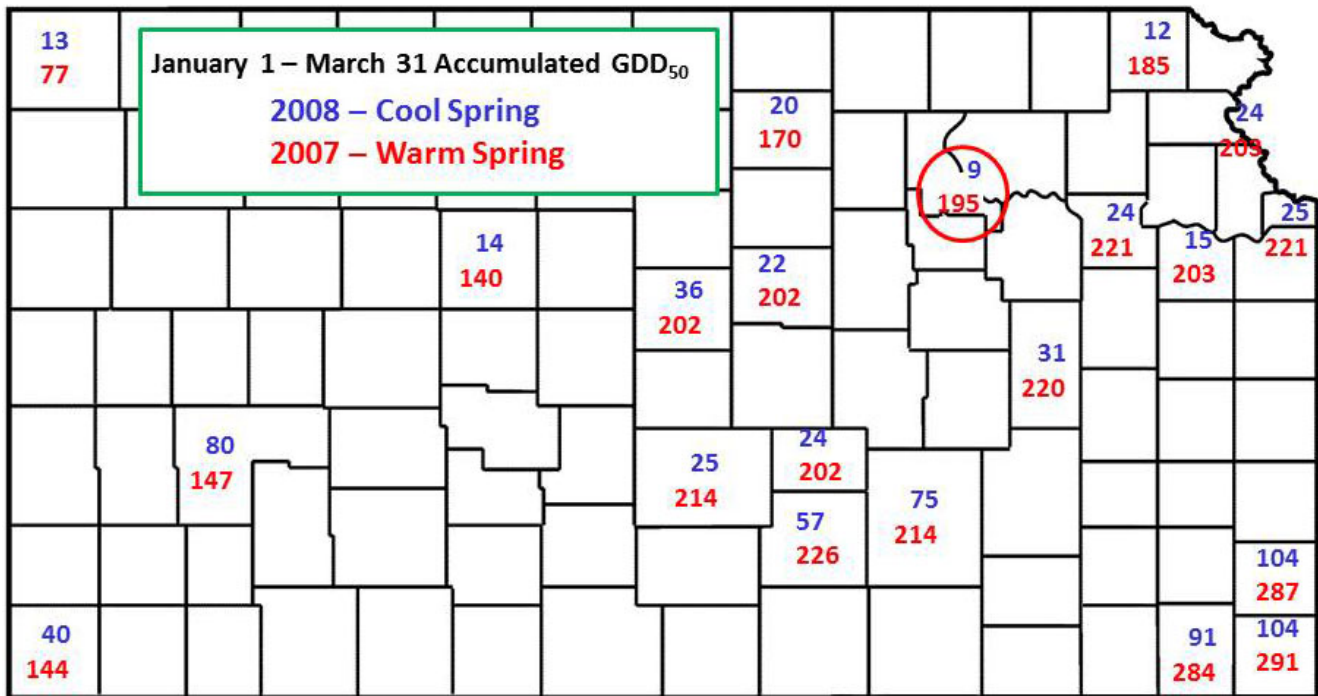
Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
785-532-5891
<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension>

May 2, 2014 No. 5

Sort of a Flip-Flop

As I ended my inclusions for this week's KIN, it struck me that I really needed to backup and clarify some of my statements. That is, when I refer to ongoing-insect-activities, I am basing them on my observations here in Manhattan. I realize (as do all of you) that this is cutting with a broad sword – that climatic conditions in Kansas differ depending on locality.

A number of years back, it was requested that I record and report accumulated GDD₅₀ values for various sites in Kansas.



What can be seen is that Springtime conditions vary from year-to-year: 2007 a warm Spring and by a cool Spring in 2008. One always hears that natural events begin quicker in southeast Kansas (Baxter Springs, Independence, and Pittsburg) than in the rest of the state. Both years' accumulated GDD₅₀s validated that statement. Catawampus across Kansas, similar events in Cheyenne County (St. Francis) were still "in the icebox". Again, this is just to clarify that there are wide differences in the timing of natural events in Kansas.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5

From Pinholes to Tatters—Brownheaded Ash Sawfly

Cool weather this past week had my wife turning on the furnace, and the Heating/Air Conditioning technician calling to cancel the scheduled annual Spring servicing of our AC.

However, early-season insect pests were undeterred, continuing to chomp away.

Production of ash tree foliage proceeded as normal. To the average passersby, trees were looking green and healthy.

However, brownheaded ash sawfly larvae continued to feed and grow. Last week's pinhole "nibbles" have now become "bite-size chunks" resulting in readily evident tattered leaves.

AND



Last week's 2-mm long larvae have more than quadrupled in length as well as having increased their girth.



The Other Currently Active Springtime Sawfly – European Pine Sawfly

As stated in KIN #3, European pine sawfly have been active since April 8. But due to their common/regular year-in and year-out appearance, they have taken a back seat to the previously addressed brownheaded ash sawfly. **MY BAD!** As one can see, **MY MUGO** has paid the price for my neglect.

The dead straw-colored areas are dried needle remains, a result of young larvae nibbling only the sort tender needle tissue in deference to the tougher needle midribs which became dry/browned and twisted. .

As larvae grew larger, they became capable of consuming entire needles. When the previous years' needles were depleted, the gregarious sawfly larvae moved (in unison) to adjacent shoots to repeat the grazing process (image taken May 29, 8:10 P.M.). Shortly thereafter, I applied a horticultural soap spray treatment.



Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5

The effectiveness of that treatment was evident (image taken May 30, 2:40 P.M.)

The pretty green “stuff” on the ground?
Poop/frass from the now dying (still wiggling/writhing) sawfly larvae.



Treading Water—Ash/Lilac Borer

Over the years, I have used Clearwing Borer pheromone lures to monitor ash/lilac borer moth activities. Looking at weekly intervals, First-of-Year catches have been as follow: April 1-7 (0); April 8-14 (3); April 15-21 (6); April 22-29 (1); April 30-May 6 (1). Clearly this is a mid-April event with 8 of the 11 emergences beginning between April 14 – 21. This year’s first appearance coincidentally occurred Friday, April 25. The coincidence? Last week’s KIN was issued on April 25 --- and in it, Dr. Cloyd provided the nuts ‘n bolts with regard to the ash/lilac borer.

Treading water? Wing traps with a sticky ensnaring material are popular for trapping purposes. My preference is a water-filled plastic bag --- less messy than sticky traps. And the “treading” moths can be easily removed ---- freed, or to-be-used/pinned for demonstration purposes



Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5



Can ash/lilac borers kill preferred hosts such as ash, lilac and privet? Given their smaller wood/branches, lilac and privet can suffer damage and branch death. However due to their prolific root systems which promote sprouting, lilac and privet stands persist. Dead wood can be removed.

Ash trees are not as forgiving. Repeated attacks especially on smaller diameter trees can eventually cause death.

Severely infested trees may continue living. While the A-Tree appeared quite leafy in 2013, the central leader and its branches were dead. Last year at some point in time, the dead material was removed at the cut-point indicated by the B arrow.

However, as can be seen, that main portion of the trunk was seriously riddled. In fact, the entire remaining trunk down to the tree base is critically damaged. Removal of this tree in its entirety is an eventuality.



Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5



Some trees which have been heavily attacked and severely damaged by ash/lilac borers do show signs of healing.



Though portions of a tree may have died (and cannot be resurrected), the development of callous tissue indicates a healing process when borer attacks abate.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5

In this particular instance, callous tissues may eventually meet/merge thus concealing the previous damage. Time will tell the future of this tree.



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

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

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 2, 2014 No. 5

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, John D. Floros, Director.