

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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October 5, 2012, No. 27

Alfalfa

Received several calls earlier in the week about aphids in alfalfa causing wilting/yellowing of plants. Checked several fields and found no aphids. However, there were unusually large numbers of potato leafhoppers (one field yielded **84/10 sweeps** which is far above the treatment threshold). Potato leafhoppers (see pictures) don't overwinter in KS and usually have migrated south by mid Sept., at least, but not this year. Many fields are being, or have recently been, swathed so that will take care of the problem. But if your fields are not scheduled to be cut again this year, we still don't recommend treating as the cold weather should cause them to migrate south. However, you need to make sure your problem is potato leafhopper related and not aphids because the potato leafhoppers will go away but any aphids may overwinter in the field and they may start feeding/increasing next spring.





Volunteer Wheat

There is considerable volunteer wheat (especially in many double cropped soybean and sorghum fields that did not have great stands because of the heat and drought), and the recent rains have caused germination. Some neighboring states are finding Hessian fly infestations more frequently than usual because of their volunteer wheat increases. So please remember to **control all volunteer wheat** as that is the best way, generally, to help manage all wheat pests.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from September 28th to October 4th, 2012.

September 28 – Pratt County – Boxelder bugs on maple

October 1 – Jackson County – Variegated cutworm around home

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October 2 – Johnson County – Honeylocust bruchid, *Amblycerus robiniae* in home

October 3 – Barton County – Green tiger beetle, *Cicindela* sp. on lawn

October 4 – Chase County – Boxelder bugs around historical site

If there are any questions regarding these samples or about the identification of any arthropod please contact the Insect Diagnostician at (785) 532-4739 or GotBugs@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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