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Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

Department of Entomology
239 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, KS 66506-4027

Tel: 785-532-5891
Fax: 785-532-6258

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"Borers" in Firewood

Almost like clockwork in early spring is the appearance of "borers" in homes, screened-in porch areas, garages and sheds. And invariably, the common denominator is firewood that has been stored. While there are many types of "borers", the three common species associated with the aforementioned firewood are the painted hickory borer, the redheaded ash borer and banded ash borer.

Painted Hickory Borer

Redheaded Ash Borer

Banded Ash Borer

Painted hickory borer, redheaded ash borer, and banded ash borer beetles prefer to deposit their eggs in dying or dead hardwood trees, and freshly cut/unseasoned logs. It is important to note that despite being named after a specific tree host, these borers has a wide host range including black locust, honeylocust, oak, hackberry, mulberry, walnut.

Once eggs have been deposited, the borer larvae continue their development whether the wood is on the stump or stacked in a wood pile. After larvae have completed their development and pupation, adults to emerge. If they emerge from wood that has been brought indoors, their presence becomes known when they fly and crawl about in enclosed areas.

Will treating firewood with an insecticide kill the developing larvae, thus preventing its development to the adult stage? NO! Insecticide treatments applied

to the surface of fire wood and logs do not reach/kill the larvae which feed and develop deep in the wood.

Do the emerged beetles constitute a threat to wood ----- from finished moldings to wall paneling to wooden furniture to ceiling beams - to exposed studs? NO! As stated above the beetles deposit eggs outdoors in their preferred ovipositional sites.

What to do? Simply catch the beetles as they appear and release them back to the outdoors. Or eliminate/kill them in whatever manner you choose.

“Cabbageworms”

“Cabbageworms” is a catch-all for several insect species associated with cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussel sprouts. Included are imported cabbageworms, cabbage loopers and diamondback caterpillars.

The warm weather of the past week has seen a flurry/fluttering of white wings of imported cabbageworm butterflies (Figure 1). Imported cabbageworm caterpillars are recognizable as “the green fuzzies” (Figure 2). After mating (Figure 3), females deposit yellow elongated eggs which can readily be seen usually on lower leaf surfaces (Figure 4).


Figure 1


Figure 2


Figure 3


Figure 4

Small larvae are incapable of causing much feeding damage (Figure 5). As they proceed through their developmental stages (Figure 6), larvae require greater amounts of food to sustain their ever-increasing size. The cumulative effect of many large larvae may render produce unmarketable (Figure 7).


Figure 5


Figure 6


Figure 7

Imported cabbageworms produce multiple generations and are thus continually present throughout the gardening season. Gardeners producing cool-season cole crops both in the spring and fall are therefore faced with the continual need to manage/control imported cabbageworm populations to an acceptable level. Control tactics are dependent upon an individual’s gardening preferences/habits. While possible, frequent inspections of plants for the purpose of locating and eliminating eggs prior to their hatching is generally unfeasible. Rather, insecticidal

sprays are required to adequately protect produce against damage caused by "cabbageworms".

Product choices for gardeners preferring to use "organically acceptable" insecticides include Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), spinosad, rotenone or rotenone/pyrethrin mixture. Synthetic active ingredients registered for use against imported cabbageworm include the traditional carbaryl, diazinon, endosulfan and malathion, and the comparatively more recent pyrethroid active ingredients esfenvalerate and permethrin.

Aphids in Alfalfa

Have received several calls this last week relative to aphids in alfalfa. We visited two fields, one in Riley Co. and one in Marion Co., and found populations of pea aphids in both. Neither field had populations which would justify treatment. But this is probably a good time to start monitoring all your alfalfa fields, if you haven't already, for aphids. Aphid feeding may have a greater impact during periods of slow growth and can build up quite rapidly.

Pea aphids are relatively large, light green to green and are probably best distinguished from other alfalfa aphid pests by the darker band around the base of each antennal segment. The presence of a few pea aphids, or any aphids, may actually be beneficial by attracting and retaining beneficial insects which will help to control the aphids. Usually requires about 50 aphids per stem on 10" alfalfa or 100 per stem on 20" alfalfa to justify an insecticide application. Again, plant vigor and growing conditions need to be considered.

Alfalfa aphids sometimes confused with pea aphids 1.) Blue alfalfa aphid. These aphids are more bluish green and do not have the darker bands around the base of the antennal segments. Antennae are lighter colored at the base and darker toward the tip. 2.) Cow pea aphid. Darker green. Feeding occurs more frequently on the tips of the stems and lack antennal bands and 3.) Spotted alfalfa aphid. Smaller than other three aphids and has relatively distinct rows of dark spots on their backs. Often found on under side of leaves.

USDA Private Applicator Recordkeeping Manuals

During the Agricultural Agent Update Meetings USDA Private Applicator Recordkeeping Manuals were delivered to most agents. Many had inquired about obtaining more manuals and were advised in the cover letter to call the USDA phone number directly.

This has now changed. In a recent discussion with the USDA Recordkeeping Office, I was asked to again request additional numbers of manuals all interested county offices wish to receive. All requests will be submitted together as one e-

mail. As manuals are reprinted, they can be shipped directly to county offices. The Recordkeeping Office is hoping for an August reprint date and will fill as many of the orders as possible at that time. Orders not filled after the August reprint will remain in their system until they are filled with subsequent reprints.

If your county would like to receive more manuals, please call Sharon Dobesh at 785-532-4748 or send an e-mail to sdobesh@oznet.ksu.edu . The following information will be needed to send to USDA: Number of manuals requested, Name of receiving agent, Address the manuals are to be shipped to.

The missing 100 manuals from our first order arrived after the Agent Update Meetings were over. If anyone has an urgent need for more manuals, please contact Sharon Dobesh. I have been told the above reprint requests manuals may not be received until September or October.

The Insect Diagnostic Laboratory received the following samples for the week of April 7- 11, 2003:

4-7-2003, Norton County: Bark Beetle, Plant Bug associated with lumber.
4-8-2003, Greeley County: Springtails in home.
4-8-2003, Sedgwick County: Red Carpenter Ants in home.
4-11-2003, Johnson County: Midge off person.

If there are any questions regarding these samples or the identification of any arthropod please get in touch with the Diagnostician at 785-532-4739 or bbrown@oznet.ksu.edu .

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bauernfeind	Jeff Whitworth	Sharon Dobesh
Extension Specialist	Extension Specialist	Pesticides & IPM Coordinator
Horticultural Entomology	Entomology	Entomology

Bobby Brown
Entomology Diagnostician