

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/extension.htm>

## Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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July 21, 2006 No. 18

## Out in the pumpkin patch .....



Pumpkin planting - 7/12/2006



Vining "runner"



Striped cucumber beetle

Pumpkin plantings are looking good in mid-July. Vining is progressing. However, as one walks through the patch, several pumpkin/squash pests are evident. Striped cucumber beetles are prevalent. Restricted to cucurbits, if they are present when plants are newly emerged or in beginning growth stages, foliar feeding could be detrimental to stand establishment. **At this point in time**, their feeding damage is inconsequential due to the fact that plants are well established.. However, control procedures are still recommended because some beetles carry and transmit the bacteria responsible for bacterial wilt disease. Whereas in a large planting the loss of a few plants is inconsequential, the loss of a few plants in home gardens may signal the end to pumpkin production. Various “general use” garden insecticides are labeled for use against “cucumber beetles/leaf-feeding beetles/beetles”, and are available through local retail outlets.

Spotted cucumber beetles (green beetles with black spots) are also very common. However, unlike the aforementioned striped cucumber beetles, spotted cucumber beetles are generalist feeders and therefore are not necessarily concentrated on pumpkin/squash host plants. Even where concentrations appear high, plants are beyond the point of sustaining “setback” due to foliar feeding. Spotted cucumber beetles **DO NOT** carry/transmit the bacteria responsible for bacterial wilt. Controls procedures against spotted cucumber beetles on well-established plants are not necessary.



Squash bugs mating



Designated leaf with eggs



"Fresh" eggs

Squash bug activities were recently observed. The noted presence of adults and/or their eggs means that the **SEASON-LONG MONITORING AND INSECTICIDE SPRAY PROGRAM** be initiated. Designate/mark leaves upon which eggs have been deposited. Periodically check eggs to assess their status relative to the hatch/emergence of squash bug nymphs. Because small, soft-bodied nymphs are especially susceptible to insecticides, time insecticide applications to coincide with their presence. It is critical to achieve total plant coverage to ensure the elimination of nymphs, many of which may be feeding on lower leaf surfaces or stems on the ground. Squash bugs are specifically listed on several products containing the active ingredients carbaryl, endosulfan, esfenvalerate and permethrin. Rotenone is available for people preferring an "organically-acceptable" insecticide.

## Failure to address bagworms.....

The following sequence serves to illustrate what could happen by ignoring bagworms.



Bagworms as of 7/12/2005



Close-up as of 7/12/2005

By mid-July, the bush between #'s 1 and 2 is severely discolored. Upon a close-up inspection, bagworms become evident as being responsible for the damage. Note that #1 is beginning to display some off-color while #2 appears green and healthy.



As of 8/25/2005



Close-up as of 8/25/2005

After the uncontrolled bagworms completed their feeding cycle by late August, the bush between #'s 1 and 2 is entirely "browned off" as evidenced in the close-up view. Increased damage is evident on #1 while #2 remains healthy. Often times, bagworms seem to spread one direction (in this instance they spread to bushes to the left).



"Recovered" 6/1/2005



As of 6/1/2006

Prior to the initiation of the following season's bagworm activities, "last year's victim" is dead. With the cessation of bagworm feeding last year, Bush #1 put on new foliar growth during the fall and early spring, and appears to have recovered. Number 2 continues to appear healthy.



7/12/2006



Close-up 7/12/2006

When recently checked, "last years victim" had been removed. An unexpected development occurred on the previously healthy #2 ..... it is under heavy bagworm attack. Unless some attempt is made to control bagworms, this (and other) plantings will likely suffer the same fate as "last year's victim".

Bob Bauernfeind

## Head Moth Alert for Sunflower Grower:

Please see below for light trap catches of sunflower moth at Hays Kansas over the past few days. As might be expected, periods of sustained southerly winds over the past week have carried significant moth populations northward. Moths caught in the trap likely represent immigrants arriving that particular night, as moths entering the sunflower field tend to remain within it. Although this wind-assisted migration is mostly a passive process, the moths actively descend when they detect the smell of blooming sunflower fields. Farmers with early-planted sunflowers in bloom should be scouting for moths or monitoring pheromone traps to determine if their fields are affected. Prophylactic spraying is NOT recommended – not all fields will be 'unlucky' enough to be affected and those that aren't will be more profitable without a spray. There is no substitute for monitoring your own field once flowers open to see if moths are present in numbers sufficient to warrant treatment. Check the 2006 K-State Sunflower Insect Management Guide for more details:

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/MF814.PDF>

7/11: 15

7/12: 29

7/13: 69

7/14: 61

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7/15: 79

7/16: 21

J.P. Michaud

## Spider mites and Western Bean Cutworms:

Received several reports this week that spider mite colonies are starting to increase in southwest Kansas and one report of western bean cutworm eggs hatching in northwest Kansas. Please consult your KSU Corn Insect Management Recommendations available at all County Extension offices for scouting guidelines and control recommendations or go to: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf810.pdf>

Jeff Whitworth

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Sincerely,

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