

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

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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Feedback Needed on Rootworm Resistant Corn

A couple of weeks ago I indicated that early July was often a time to check corn fields for corn rootworm injury and a good time to evaluate the effectiveness of corn rootworm management. Since that time I have heard some rumors of greater than expected injury being found on some rootworm resistant corn hybrids. If you made some observations on rootworm resistant corn and found significant injury, I would really like to hear from you. Other states have reported finding damage on some hybrids, but more information is needed to determine what is actually happening. If you have any observations to report please send a short message to psloderb@ksu.edu including information on location of field (county), hybrid involved, damage rating, and contact information.

Soybean Aphid

Thus far we have received only a couple of reports of trace levels of soybean aphids in Kansas this year. This is not unexpected due to the extremely warm weather that we have been experiencing. If you have been checking soybean fields for aphids, we would like to hear from you. For compiling historical records of soybean aphid infestations, reports of not finding aphids are just as important as those where aphids are being found. Again if you have time just send a short e-mail to psloderb@ksu.edu containing information on what you have observed, include the date, location (especially the county or counties) of field(s) inspected, plant growth stage, estimate of aphid numbers per plant (general estimates are ok: none, trace, several, hundreds or thousands), and any other comments that might be relevant.

Corn Borer

At Garden City we are now in the middle of the second generation corn borer flight. Non-

resistant corn hybrids should be scouted and treated if needed to avoid yield loss and lodging problems. Be sure to check grower agreements on refuge fields especially where corn rootworm refuge is an issue.

Also be aware that we have heard reports of Southwestern corn borer being heavier than normal in North Central Kansas, thus growers in this area should be more diligent than normal in scouting fields for corn borer.

More information on European and Southwestern Corn Borer Management can be found at: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=243&tabid=592> (for European) and <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=253&tabid=597> (for southwestern).

Cotton Bollworm

Cotton is now flowering and this means that it is time to scout fields for cotton bollworm. Bollworm is a major pest of cotton in some areas, however in Kansas many fields do not reach economic infestations, so scouting is very important to determine which fields are exceeding economic levels and to time insecticide applications. In our plots in Stevens county this week no signs of corn earworm could be found on 200 terminals and 400 flowers. Note that this field was across the road from a corn field that was still silking, infestations would likely be higher in fields that are not near corn fields. More information can be found at: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=267&tabid=526>

Spider Mites

Spider mites are apparently quite variable on corn in southwest Kansas. With the high numbers of mites that we saw move from the wheat to the corn early in the season and the hot weather we have been experiencing one would have expected severe mite infestations, however in some fields the beneficial organisms are keeping the mites in check. Again field scouting is very important to evaluate the situation on a field by field basis. For mite control options see: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=255&tabid=598>

Sincerely,

Phil Sloderbeck
Extension Specialist
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