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Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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Some cockroaches are O.K.....

The word “cockroach” may repulse some people, especially when they are in **your home!** Yet, not every roach is a bad roach. While it is true that some species are considered “filth roaches” and have the ability to adapt to and reproduce and thrive indoors, some are strictly outdoor species which, occasionally, find their way indoors as uninvited guests.



Cockroaches

The outdoor species are commonly referred to as wood roaches. They are especially abundant in wooded areas where they feed and breed. Wood roaches might be considered useful/beneficial insects because their preferred food source is decaying organic matter.

An interesting difference between male and female wood roaches is that females possess rudimentary wings and therefore are incapable of flying. The winged males are swift fliers and capable of prolonged flights over considerable distance. And unlike most cockroaches which scurry away from light, male wood roaches are attracted towards light sources. Outdoor and indoor lighting will attract males to homes where they are frequently seen crawling on the sides of houses, and on porch and deck areas.

Like most cockroaches, wood roaches will seek out cracks and crevices in which to hide. In doing so, they may find entry points into homes. Despite their presence, people should not be concerned that their homes will be overrun by generation upon generation of cockroaches. Again, the indoor environment is not conducive to the establishment of an indoor population. As indicated earlier, only the males are highly

mobile and fly to homes. Females are seldom encountered because of their relative immobility, and also their being content to remain in their preferred environment.

Upon encountering wood roaches, a person's first reaction might be to contact an extermination service, or to go out and purchase an insecticide registered for homeowner use. However, merely catching and physically removing/eliminating the roach is the quickest and easiest method for dispatching the interlopers. Then, locate and plugging/sealing all entry points which may prevent further intrusions of wood roaches.

Bagworm egg hatch ---- approaching the halfway point:

The second week of June approximates the halfway point of the 4-5 week period of bagworm egg hatch. The earliest of bagworms are still small in size and go undetected because they are not causing noticeable damage. Even if the small bagworms are observed, insecticide treatments are not recommended at this point during the egg hatch period **unless people are committed to applying two treatments**. A single application, now, may give a false sense of security in that having been applied, current season bagworm control efforts have been completed when, in fact, many bagworms have yet to hatch.

Currently in Kansas, there are 337 insecticidal products registered for use against bagworms. There are no magic bagworm insecticides. Within performance percentage points, all products are effective against bagworms. What is more important than what registered product is used is **WHEN AND HOW TREATMENTS ARE APPLIED?**

WHEN considering a single spray treatment, the last week of June or the first week of July is the best time to treat for current-season bagworms. At that time, all eggs will have hatched. Even the earliest bagworms will still be too small to have caused noticeable feeding damage.

THOROUGH SPRAY COVERAGE is the second important factor for achieving successful bagworm control. Too often, treatments are hastily applied to the outer perimeters/portions of infested trees, eliminating only those bagworms subjected to the insecticide. Especially in 2-3 row plantings, tree lines and/or windbreaks, a majority of the bagworms feeding in deeper in the canopy or on protected/crowded foliage escape treatment. Complete spray coverage can be achieved if the applicator slowly and methodically delivers treatments to inner and outer portions of smaller individual trees and shrubs. Consider contacting commercial applicators with professional sprayers to control bagworms on larger trees and in dense plantings.

Bob Bauernfeind

Supracide Labeled for Use on Sorghum:

Gowan has announced a Special Local Need Registration for methidathion (Supracide 2E) for use against

Banks grass mite and greenbug on grain sorghum grown for forage and grain. Apply 2 pt/A (0.5 lb a.i./A). Up to 3 applications allowed per season. Do not apply within 30 days of harvest or feeding to livestock. Check Special Local Need Label for more information.

Thrips Pose Threat to Various Crops:

Thrips migrate out of wheat as it matures in search of new food sources. This may cause a burst of thrips activity that is particularly bad if it occurs just as the young seeding plants are emerging from the soil. Probably the most susceptible crop in our area is cotton, but significant infestations can occur on other crops.

On cotton economic damage may occur when plants average three or more thrips per plant before the four-leaf stage. For more information on thrips on cotton see our web site: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=263&tabid=524>

Soybeans are probably the second most common crop for thrips questions in Kansas. Thrips on soybeans generally feed on the underside of the leaves and usually reach maximum densities about a month after planting. According to information out of North Carolina on the soybean thrips (*Seriothrips variabilis*) 6 to 10 thrips per leaf may cause some yellowing but relative little economic damage, but populations of 30 to 60 thrips per leaf have been reported to cause substantial injury. Virginia recommends treatment when 75% of the leaflets are showing damage, the plants are under stress, and thrips average more than 8 per leaflet (note soybeans have leaves with three leaflets so this appears closer to the North Carolina data than maybe obvious at first glance). Early season drought may cause an ordinarily harmless thrips population to become a problem. Thrips damage occurs primarily during periods of vegetative growth and is difficult to distinguish from that of a wide range of pests and diseases which cause yellowing and browning of leaves in the summer. Several insecticides commonly used on soybeans are labeled for treating thrips.

On corn and sorghum thrips can be a concern during the first week or so following emergence. During this time period, a few thrips can be found in almost every field. An infestation of two or three thrips per plant is enough to cause light feeding injury, but is of little real concern. Heavier infestations (in the range of 5 to 15 per plant) have caused dead leaves, stunting and some stand loss to seedling plants. Once plants become established they can generally outgrow any injury.

On alfalfa thrips can delay regrowth. Damaged leaves are curled, puckered and yellowed. While there are no established treatment guidelines, consider treatment if thrips numbers appear to be extremely high and the alfalfa appears yellowed and stunted for no other apparent reason. One thing to keep in mind these little critters can be hard to control. If you do attempt control you are going to need excellent coverage. Thus if fields are nearing cutting stage it may be best to cut as early as possible and watch the regrowth.

Keep in mind that crops often rapidly out grow thrips populations without treatment and that treatments should only be considered where significant injury is observed and significant thrips populations are still present.

Phil Sloderbeck

Wheat Head Armyworms:

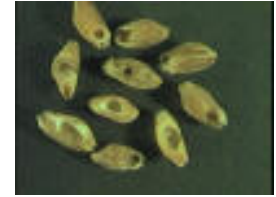
Reports of wheat head armyworms and damage to grain caused by wheat head armyworms has been reported this week from southwest Kansas. Thus, growers need to be aware that as wheat is harvested these worms may start crawling out of the grain and be a cause of alarm. However, the damage is done and they are not a pest of the grain in storage.



Wheathead Armyworm



Damaged Head



Damaged Grain

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from June 1, through June 6, 2006:

- 6-1-2006, Washington County: Green Lacewing larva on house plant.
- 6-5-2006, Geary County: Horsehair Worm in water pipe.
- 6-5-2006, Linn County: Larder Beetles, Mealworm Adult in home.
- 6-5-2006, Johnson County: Giant Water Bug abdomen in yard.
- 6-5-2006, Harvey County: Planthopper eggs, Assassin Bug on Pear tree.
- 6-6-2006, Shawnee County: Thrips around yard, swimming pool.
- 6-6-2006, Riley County: Leaf Beetles eating Rhubarb.
- 6-7-2006, Mitchell County: Leaf Galls on Bur Oak.
- 6-7-2006, Butler County: Sawtoothed Grain Beetle in home.

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 at bbrown@ksu.edu.

Bobby Brown

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Sincerely,

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