Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

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Japanese Beetles in Soybeans

Bill Hilbert, Plant Protection Specialist with Kansas Department of Agriculture, received a report of an insecticide application on a soybean field in Shawnee Co. to control Japanese beetles (see photos) feeding on the border plants. As far as we can determine this is the first report of an insecticide application for this insect on soybeans in Kansas. Japanese beetles have been in KS since first detected in the early 1980's but only established in isolated areas, mainly in turf and nursery stocks, since that time. They can be, and sometimes are, serious pests in corn and soybeans in other states but this is the first report of Japanese beetle populations sufficient enough to warrant treatment in soybeans.

Jeff Whitworth Holly Davis

Soybean Aphids

Aphids were detected this week in western Kansas. Individual wingless aphids were fairly easy to detect on the underside of leaves in the middle of the canopy from fields sampled in Finney, Wichita and Greeley Counties. Aphids collected and taken to the lab for inspection appeared to be a mixture of cotton aphids and soybean aphids. Populations probably averaged less than on aphid per plant, but occasionally 2 to 5 aphids could be found on one leaflet.

We are posting the information on infested counties on our web site at: http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=694 . and information on a national level can be found at: http://sba.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi?host=All%20Legumes/Kudzu&pest=soybean_aphid. I you are finding aphids please send us a note so we can keep track of the infestation. Phil Sloderbeck, 620-275-9164, psloderb@ksu.edu and Jeff Whitworth, 785-532-5891, jwhitwor@ksu.edu

Soybean Stem Borer

In Finney, county soybean stem borer larvae are beginning to tunnel from the soybean petioles into the main soybean stems. When this occurs the leaf will normally wilt and eventually desiccate and fall from the plant. This is a good time to begin assessing the percent of plants that may be infested with the soybean stem borer. Currently our best management practice is to make sure to harvest infested fields in a timely manner. Thus, scouting at this time of year can be useful in prioritizing which fields to harvest first this fall.

Pictures of the soybean stem borer can be found on our web site at: http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=719. Note that this insect has mainly been a pest of soybeans in central Kansas. The current distribution map is posted on our web site. http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=718. If you find soybean stem borers in soybeans in counties not shaded in on the map on our web site we would really like to hear from you as we would like to keep the distribution map as up-to-date as possible. Please contact Phil Sloderbeck, 620-275-9164, psloderb@ksu.edu with any observations or comments that you have regarding the soybean stem borer.

Phil Sloderbeck

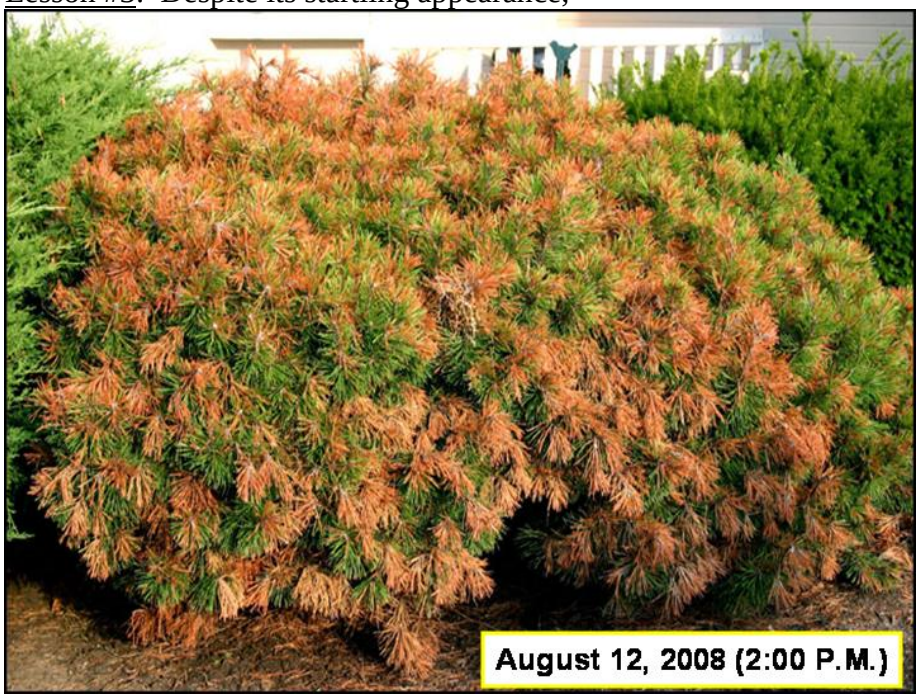
YES! Even Entomologists Get Burned!!!

Despite our knowledge of insect pests, we take lessons from them.

Lesson #1: One never knows when and where “a pest” will appear. From 1993 through 2007, a landscape Mugo pine has essentially been pest free (occasional pine needle scale kept in check/eliminated with horticultural oil spray treatments). This year, however, damage by the larvae of **Nantuckett Pine Tip Moths** was evident in mid-July.

Lesson #2: Once something appears amiss, there is little to be done ---- the pest has “done-the-deed”, and the damage cannot be reversed ----- other than to watch the progression of damage.

Lesson #3: Despite its startling appearance,



After the removal of dead terminals,

the Mugo does not appear to be in dire straits. In fact, there will be an improvement of the Mugo's overall form when auxiliary growth fills in gaps and provides a more bushy/full appearance.

Lesson #4: Monitoring moth activity is key to preventing repeated damage which can lead to distorted growth and even cause dead branches. Knowing that the recent damage was caused by second generation NPTM larvae, and that a third generation is imminent, a sticky trap baited with the NPTM pheromone is in place. When the third generation moth activity begins, and insecticide treatment will be applied to kill larvae before they tunnel into terminals.

Lesson #5: If NTPM are to be nipped-in-the-bud, monitoring for the onset of yearly activities needs to implemented as part of a management program. Therefore, knowing that NPTM are now part of the history at this site, a pheromone trap will be "in place" next year beginning in late March prior to the traditional (rule-of-thumb) mid-April appearance of first generation moths emerging from overwintered pupae.

Bob Bauernfeind

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from August 8th to August 14th.

August 08 2008: Riley County – Spider beetles in home
August 08 2008: Wyandotte County – Ermine moth found on side of building
August 08 2008: Shawnee County – Muscid fly larva

August 08 2008: Sedgwick County – Wheat wireworms, carabid larva, scarabid larva in sorghum
August 08 2008: Douglas County – Immature assassin bug on rose bush
August 08 2008: Johnson County – Brown recluse spider in home
August 08 2008: Riley County – Cicada killers around lawn
August 11 2008: Shawnee County – Imperial silk moth and larvae
August 11 2008: Atchison County – Moth larvae on apple tree
August 11 2008: Shawnee County – Common stalk borer in home garden
August 11 2008: Harvey County – Drugstore beetles in kitchen
August 12 2008: Nemaha County – Acalypterate muscoid flies in home
August 12 2008: Mitchell County – Pomace flies in home
August 12 2008: Johnson County – Rustic borer and Red oak borer
August 12 2008: Shawnee County – Crablike orb weaver spider in yard
August 13 2008: Nemaha County – Oak flake galls on Oak tree
August 13 2008: Pratt County – Skeletonizing caterpillars and insect feeding damage on Peach, Pear, and Apple
August 13 2008: Riley County – Cottonwood borer

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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