

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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May 16, 2008 No. 7

Bird Cherry Oat Aphids

Received several calls regarding the presence of bird cherry oat aphid (BCOA) in wheat fields. Last year, as many of you may well remember, we had serious problems with these aphids about this time. However, none of the reports, nor any of the fields we've visited has populations anywhere near the treatable levels. Some of the calls are asking if they should include an insecticide with a fungicide treatment "just in case". We don't recommend an insecticide treatment unless it is justified by the number of insects exceeding the treatment threshold. Bird cherry oat aphids have not been a concern due to feeding damage, except for last year. BCOA's are usually more of a fall problem because they are efficient vectors of barley yellow dwarf. Thus, unless you have 30-50 aphids per tiller and the wheat seems stressed, and there are no lady beetles in the vicinity, it would not be economically feasible to add an insecticide to your fungicide "just in case". For more information regarding wheat insect management, please visit our website at:

<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=195&tabid=405>

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

Field Crop Conditions

Wheat in the Garden City area was heading this week. No reports of any serious insect activity on wheat the last few weeks. Alfalfa weevil larvae were increasing in the area last week and probably most fields have been treated by now. The cool weather has delayed cotton planting, so it will be a few days before we have much cotton ready to scout.

Probably the biggest issue currently would be checking corn fields for seedling pests. Seedcorn beetles, seedcorn maggots, wireworms, white grubs, flea beetles and black cutworms are the normal pests that can occur this time of year. All of these pests are probably more of a threat than normal due to the cool weather. Currently fields should be scouted for early signs of any of these pests as the crops begin to emerge. Wireworms, seed corn maggots and seed corn beetles can destroy the seeds as they begin to germinate causing poor stand emergence. Wireworms may also tunnel into the emerging plants just below the soil line causing the plants to die after emergence. White grubs feed on the roots, which will cause the plants to wilt and possibly die. Small black cutworm larvae cause "window pane" damage on the leaves of young plants while larger larvae may cut off seedling plants at the soil surface. Flea beetles chew small "scratches" on leaves. Eventually, the leaves may shrivel, turn gray, and die. If signs of injury are found then one must decide if any management actions are warranted. One of the first things to check would be what type of seed was planted, what insecticide treatments may have been applied to the seed and were any soil insecticides applied at planting. If the field was planted with seed that was treated, has resistance to cutworms (hybrids with Herculex I) or if a soil insecticide was applied at planting then this needs to become part of the

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equation to decide if additional management is needed. If the field has not been protected in any way then limited feeding may justify treatment where as if the field has already been treated then a higher level of feeding would be needed before one would become too concerned. Unfortunately for many of these pests (such as seedcorn beetles, seedcorn maggots, wireworms and grubs) there are no rescue treatments. If damage is found then it is a matter of determining if damage is severe enough to justify replanting using a seed treatment or a soil insecticide. Information on making stand counts and corn replant decisions can be found in issue Number 27, April 6, 2006 of Agronomy e-Updates (<http://www.agronomy.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1433>). For cutworms and flea beetles there are several different treatment options if populations warrant and more information can be found on our web pages at <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=211&tabid=576> and <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=221&tabid=581> for black cutworm and corn flea beetles respectively.

Phil Sloderbeck

Odd Insect Inquiries

I have received a couple of unusual calls the last few days, that I thought I would pass them along just incase anyone else might happen to see the same things.

The first was a phone call from Northwest Kansas of leaffooted bugs on cedar trees in a wind break. Not all that unusual until they reported seeing several per branch. Leaffooted bugs are fairly common insects, but I would not generally anticipate finding several per branch. From the description given I am assuming that the species in question was *Leptoglossus clypealis* Heidemann or the Western Leaffooted bug. Adults of this

leaffooted bug are reddish-brown in color with a wavy or irregular band of white across the middle of the wings. The majorities are herbivores, and use their piercing-and-sucking mouthparts to feed on plant juices. Many are able to feed on a variety of plants, including crop and garden species. Luckily other shelterbelts in the same area did not seem to be infested. However, on Saturday I happened to be walking around in a shelterbelt near my home in Garden City and noticed some leaffooted bugs in a cedar tree. The first tree I looked at had 2-3 bugs per branch, several trees had no noticeable bugs, but then one tree had a swarm of bugs, several dozen on about a 1 foot section of a branch. While I assume that these bugs post little threat to the cedar trees, it warrants further watching and I would not discourage someone from trying to treat for them at these high levels, because I really don't know what these kinds of numbers might do to the plants. They may just feed for a little while and then disperse, but if they begin to lay eggs on the trees the situation might become more critical. If you happen to notice high numbers of these bugs in your area please let us know.



Photo of leaffooted bugs on cedar tree in Garden City on May 10, 2008

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Photo of leaffooted bug, *Leptoglossus clypealis* Heidemann on cedar tree in Garden City on May 10, 2008



Mud and pollen from track around window in home (PES 2008).

The second unusual sample was brought into my office last week. It contained 1/4 to 3/8 inch globs of yellow pasty material along with small pieces of dried mud. The sample had reportedly been found in the void (or grooved track) around a window in a home. At first glance the yellow material reminded me of the lumps of pollen that I had seen in the nests of leaf cutter bees, but the mud through me, and there was no evidence of cut-up leaf material. After a little looking I am pretty sure that this is probably the remains of the nest of a mason bee. They are named from their habit of making compartments of mud in their nests, which are normally made in hollow reeds or holes in wood made by wood boring insects. Mason bees are increasingly cultivated to improve pollination for early spring fruit flowers. Again, I don't think I have ever had these bees brought in as a pest before, so I would be interested in hearing if others have had similar experiences.



Tiny larva feeding on glob of pollen, from mason bee nest. (PES 2008)

Phil Sloderbeck

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers'

Funday Coming!

Saturday, June 7, 2008, the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association will host its annual "Super Funday" at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at 2110 Harper, Lawrence, KS. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.; the program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Speakers include Dr. John Skinner from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Chip Taylor and Danny Nanjera from the University of Kansas and members of the Northeast Kansas Beekeepers' Association. Hands-on workshops will include topics on:

- pollination
- swarming
- collecting and cleaning pollen
- assembling equipment
- installing package bees
- queen rearing
- bee lining
- soap making
- beginning beeswax
- lip balms & lotion bars

And many others...So bring your hat & veil and get in on the fun!

Cost is \$25.00 per person for advance registrations by May 30, 2008 or \$30.00 at the door. Fees include lunch, beverages, and homemade honey ice cream for an afternoon snack. For more information contact Joli Winer at 913-856-8356 or joli@heartlandhoney.com.

Sharon Dobesh

Weekly Report from the Kansas State

University Insect Diagnostic

Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from May 9th to May 15th.

- May 09 2008: Riley County – Winged termites
- May 09 2008: Shawnee County – Pine needle scale
- May 09 2008: Dickinson County – Winged termite
- May 09 2008: Labette County – Pine needle miner damage
- May 12 2008: Bourbon County – Winged termites
- May 12 2008: Ford County – Coreid bug nymph

- May 13 2008: Wyandotte County – Weevil
- May 14 2008: Johnson County – Black legged tick – female
- May 14 2008: Harvey County – Lone star ticks - male and nymph
- May 15 2008: Barton County – Pillbugs
- May 15 2008: Barton County – Carpet beetles
- May 15 2008: Harvey County – Indianmeal moth adult

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 .or holly3@ksu.edu .

Holly Davis

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