

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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July 23, 2010 No. 18

Potato Psyllid Update

Potato harvest is just starting in western Kansas and it looks like the incidence of Zebra Chips should be low this year, since none of the Psyllids collected so far this season have been positive for *Liberibacter* the phytoplasma thought to cause the disease. Results of the survey are being posted on the web at: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/psyllidsurvey>. This project is part of a research project being coordinated by USDA-ARS-Waslaco.

Phil Sloderbeck

Sorghum Webworms

Sorghum webworms are beginning to infest sorghum heads in south central and south eastern Kansas. Consultants and growers need to monitor these populations because they have the potential to reduce yield as they feed on grain. For information on this insect please see the Sorghum Insect Management Guide: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf742.pdf>

Bean Leaf Beetles and Garden Webworms Between Generations

Currently, bean leaf beetles and garden webworms are between generations, thus populations appear to be very low at this time. However, consultants and growers should be on the lookout for adult bean leaf beetles and small garden webworms in soybeans over the next few weeks. For the most part late planted and double-cropped soybeans will be at risk of economic injury from these insects.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

This and That Yellownecked Caterpillar, Mimosa Webworm, Fall Webworm

- As mentioned in Kansas Insect Newsletter #16, caged yellownecked caterpillars had pupated between July 6-8. By July 20 (when I returned to Manhattan), a number of moths had emerged, and are currently are preparing to deposit eggs for their 2nd generation (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Assuming that the same is occurring “in nature”, one would suspect that there will be reports (by the end of August and into September) of a wide variety of trees being defoliated by “big worms”.

Not to worry. Trees will leaf out next spring, none-the-worse-for-ware (Figure 2).

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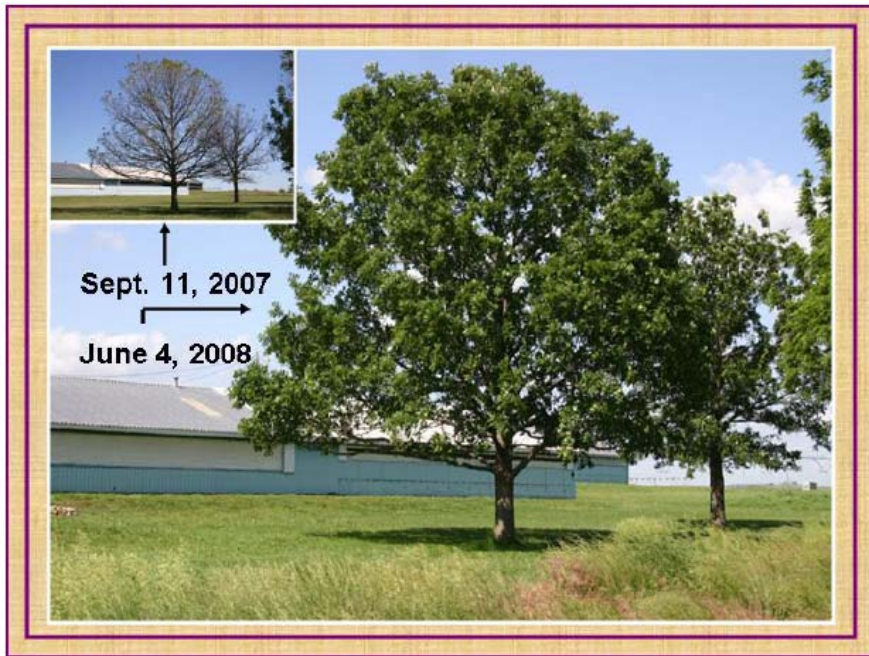


Figure 2

- Driving through Manhattan, many honeylocusts were taking on a scorched appearance (Figure 3).



Figure 3

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This is the result of 1st generation mimosa webworms. Expect to eventually see entire trees “browned” by the next surge (generation two) of mimosa webworm.

There is little to be done ----- insecticide treatments are not warranted due to the fact that often times, first generation larvae pupate within the webbed foliage with emerging adults mating and depositing eggs within the same. Thus they are protected/shielded from insecticide applications.

Not to worry. Trees will leaf out next spring, none-the-worse-for-ware (Figure 4).

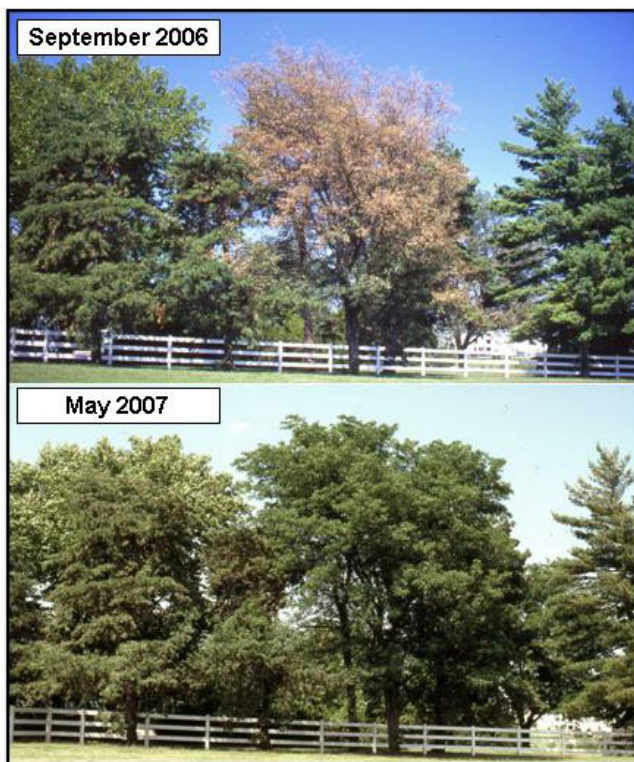


Figure 4

- The last visible situation has to do with the seemingly sudden appearance of fall webworm web masses on branch terminals (Figure 5).

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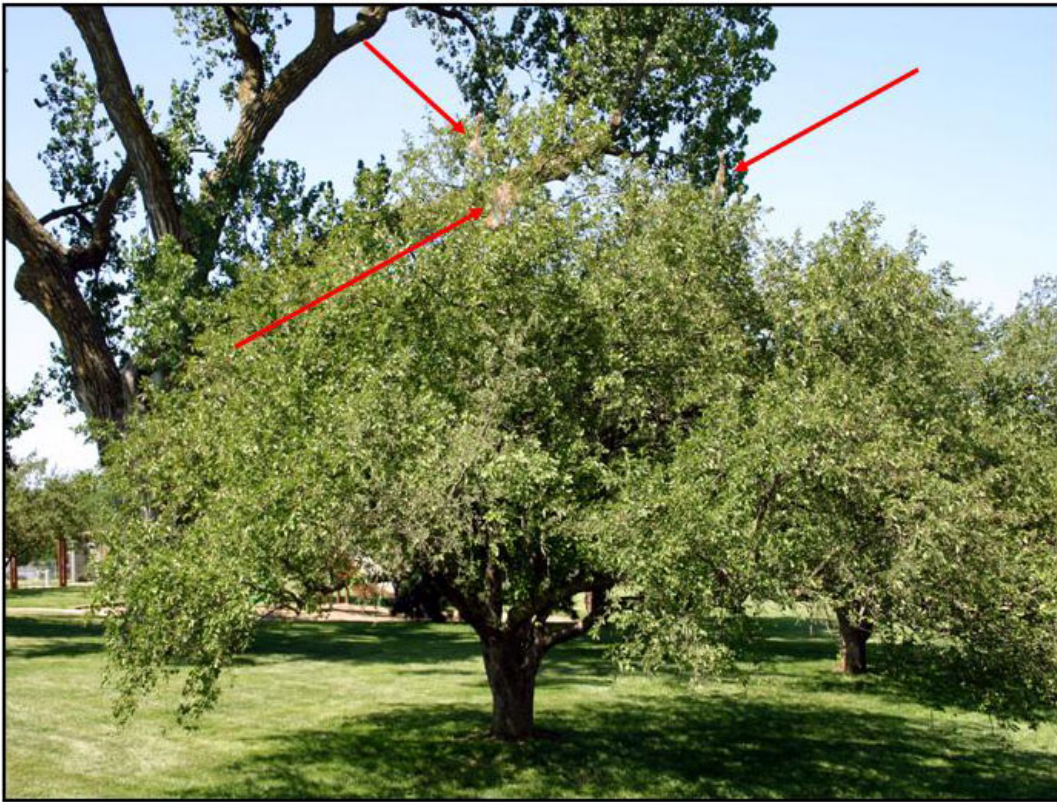


Figure 5

This has me flummoxed. As determined by caged overwinter pupae as well as blacklight trap catches, I had previously reported the emergence of moths of the redheaded race on June 10. Yet the current larvae look to be 3rd instars at the most. Given our warm weather, I would have expected web masses to have appeared sooner and larvae to be in their last developmental stages --- and thus be the source of second generation fall webworms. Hmmmmmm!

But the situation is what it is. If the presence of webbing is distracting/objectionable, and if within arms reach, remove the webbing which will also collect/remove most of the larvae. The easiest (and my favorite) method is to use my fingers to rake and dispose of the collected matter (Figure 6).

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Figure 6

While this works for me (**IF** I decide to remove webbing --- and more likely than not I will simply accept the presence of fall webworms), others might have an aversion to touching (contacting) webs and larvae. I will leave it to them to come up with their own method or device for removal. While pruning out branches is an option, I personally feel that to be overkill ----- namely because fall webworms do not feed on/destroy buds which will provide the ensuing year's foliage (Figure 7).



Figure 7

Enlisting your help ----- Striped Blister Beetles

Blister beetles have a yearly presence in Kansas. And there are various species. Two of the most common “summer species) are 3-striped blister beetles and ash gray blister beetles (Figure 8).

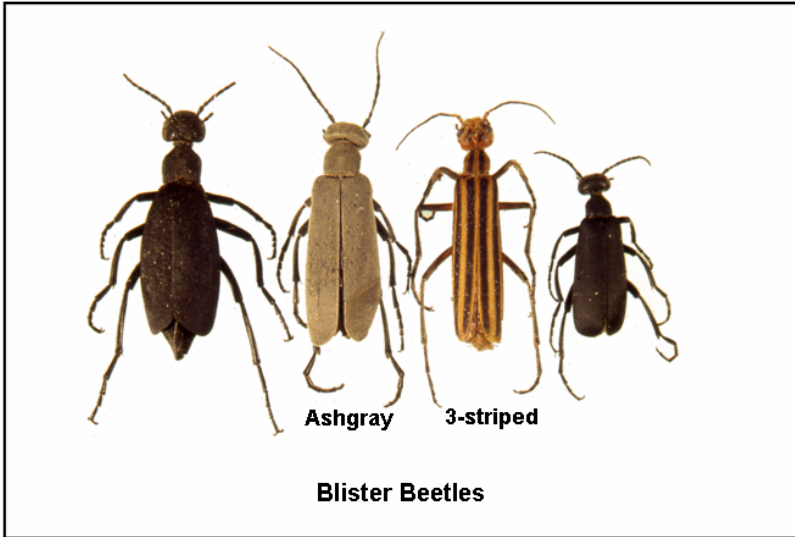


Figure 8

Blister beetles are general feeders which typically move in swarms (Figure 9).



Figure 9

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I am looking to gather blister beetles. In particular, 3-striped blister beetle swarms which are encountered in alfalfa and soybean fields, and also gardens. If you receive inquiries/notifications of blister beetle swarms, I would appreciate hearing from you as I “Have Net, Will Travel”.

Bob Bauernfeind

Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory from July 16th to July 22nd.

July 16 2010 – Leavenworth County – Larder beetles in home
July 16 2010 – Cherokee County – Japanese beetles on beans
July 19 2010 – Barber County – Stink bug nymphs on soybeans
July 19 2010 – Wyandotte County – Fungus gnats in garage
July 19 2010 – Ottawa County – Female dobsonfly on building
July 19 2010 – Sedgwick County – Spiny-backed orbweaver spider
July 20 2010 – Rooks County – False chinch bugs in wheat stubble
July 20 2010 – Phillips County – Drugstore beetle in home
July 20 2010 – Rooks County – Orbatid mites in buffalograss
July 20 2010 – Labette County – Earth worms
July 20 2010 – Riley County – Locust seed borers around home
July 21 2010 – Rooks County – Squash vine borer, squash bug eggs, and fungus gnats on zucchini and pumpkins
July 21 2010 – Geary County – Oak lace bugs and eggs on bur oak tree
July 21 2010 – Nemaha County – Milkweed tussock moth caterpillars
July 22 2010 – Pratt County – Elm leaf beetle larvae and pupae

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

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Sincerely,

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