

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
785-532-5891
<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension>

March 9, 2012 No. 1

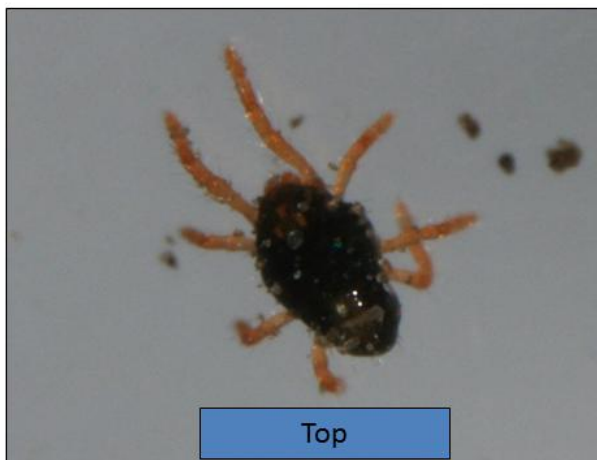
Alfalfa Weevil

Both Chuck Otte and Tom Maxwell, Agricultural Extension Agents for Geary and Saline Counties (Central KS District), respectively have reported finding pin-prick sized holes in alfalfa growth and very small weevil larvae this week (5 and 7 March). Finding alfalfa weevil larvae hatching in the first week of March is not unusual but, just because the eggs are starting to hatch and the larvae are starting to feed, does not mean it is time to spray, unless you are planning on multiple applications, probably from now through the end of April. But, it is time to start scouting the alfalfa and monitoring the weevil feeding to ensure proper application timing for the most effective results.

Wheat

Have sampled wheat fields from Ellsworth to Marquette to Concordia looking for aphids, but have not found any greenbugs or bird cherry-oat aphids yet. However, they should be showing up anytime now as the wheat seems to be actively growing and the weather has, and is, moderating. Have found a few infestations of winter grain mites (see photo) but nothing to worry about as long as the wheat is actively growing.

Winter Grain Mite



Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

Kansas Insect Newsletter

June 18, 2010 No. 13

Insect Diagnostic Lab 2012

For most of Kansas, this winter has been unusually warm and it appears that we may have an early spring. This also means that there are already insects out and about. I have noticed that the samples are already picking up this year so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that the Insect Diagnostic Lab is here to help you out! Each county should have cardboard mailing tubes and vials. If you do not, please let me know and I will get some to you. Just a few quick reminders as we head into what looks to be a busy season:

- Please make sure that all insects / arthropods are dead and properly preserved. All soft bodied insects (aphids, spiders, caterpillars, etc.) should be stored in **vinegar** and all samples need to be sent in a crush proof container. I get occasional insects that are sent in Ziploc bags inside of padded envelopes and many times they arrive as “bug dust” and I cannot make a good ID.
- Along with the samples it is very helpful to have as much information as possible. Where were the insects found? How many were there and what were they feeding on, etc.? To make this easier, we have created forms that can be printed off, filled out, and sent with the sample. These forms can be found on the following site: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=387>
- I also welcome digital photos of larger insects that can be clearly captured (GotBugs@ksu.edu). It really helps if you send several photos of the insect from different angles, i.e. top, bottom, showing any distinctive markings. Please include a size reference, as well as information about where the insect was collected, etc.

For more information on sending in samples please see Insect Identification Service Instructions for Submitting Samples, EP-162: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/entml2/EP162.pdf>

I look forward to another year and hope to hear from you all! Please feel free to contact me with ANY questions at (785) 532-4739 or GotBugs@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

Sincerely,

Jeff Whitworth
Extension Specialist
Field Crops
phone: 785/532-5656
e-mail: jwhitwor@ksu.edu

Holly Davis
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4739
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Gary Pierzynski, Interim Dean of COA ~ and Interim Director of KSRE.