Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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Sugarcane aphid expanding to other counties in Kansas

Sugarcane aphid has been confirmed in the following counties in Kansas: Marion, Sedgwick, Sumner, Cowley, Labette, Meade, Haskell, and Ford. Populations first reported in Sumner and Cowley counties have reached threshold levels (30% of plants infested with visible signs of honeydew on leaves) and are being treated with insecticides. Scouting fields early will help determine the need for an insecticide application before losses occur. Treating too soon may increase the need for additional insecticide treatments later, as populations can rebound based on immigration events. Scout often, as densities can change quickly. Report any infestations in new counties to your local agent or using http://myFields.info.

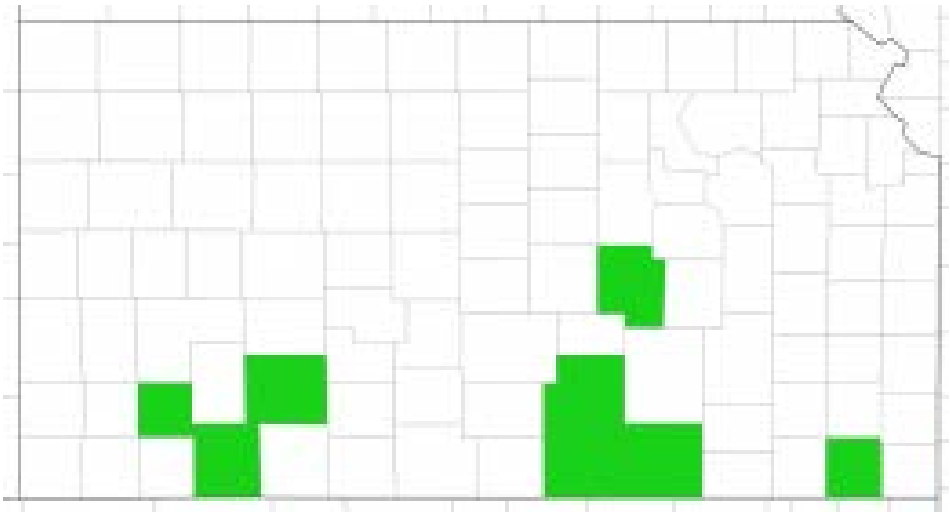

Figure 1. Current counties in Kansas confirmed with sugarcane aphid in green.

Recommended treatment options for SCA control are either Transform (Dow AgroSciences) at 1 oz per acre, or Sivanto prime (Bayer CropScience) at 4 oz per acre, applied in 15 - 20 gal of water from a ground rig. Application from the air will be more costly and less effective, as it will not permit application of these materials in sufficient volume to obtain the coverage necessary for good efficacy. The cost per acre is lower for Transform, and this material is also the least toxic alternative for aphid natural enemies. If headworms are present in damaging numbers (1-2 per head or more, the majority still less than 1 inch long), Blackhawk (Dow AgroSciences), Prevathon (Dupont) or Belt (Bayer CropScience) are alternatives that can be considered for controlling them. Note that Belt registration has just been revoked by the EPA, but existing stores may be used. Of the materials labelled for headworm control, these are the ones likely to have the lowest impact on beneficial species assisting with aphid control. We have found Prevathon to be compatible with Transform in a tank mix; all other combinations should be tested first for compatibility by mixing small amounts in a jar to ensure no precipitate forms. Read the label carefully before you spray.

by the KSRE Field Crop Extension Entomology Team

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Soybean Update

Ms. Rene Hessel, Assistant Scientist in the KSU Agronomy Dept. found soybean aphids in Dr. Bill Schapaugh's soybean research plots at Ashland Bottoms in Riley Co. on 1 August. This is the first documented case of these annual migrants we have heard about this year in Kansas. These aphids are most easily detected by

finding ants in a soybean canopy. If you do discover ants on the leaves/stems etc. in the canopy, look very closely for these tiny aphids. Since they first migrated into KS in 2002, the easiest and most reliable way of detecting the initial infestation is by finding ants. Hopefully, the heat will help retard the soybean aphid's population growth over the next few weeks but soybean fields should be periodically monitored.

Jeff Whitworth Holly Schwarting

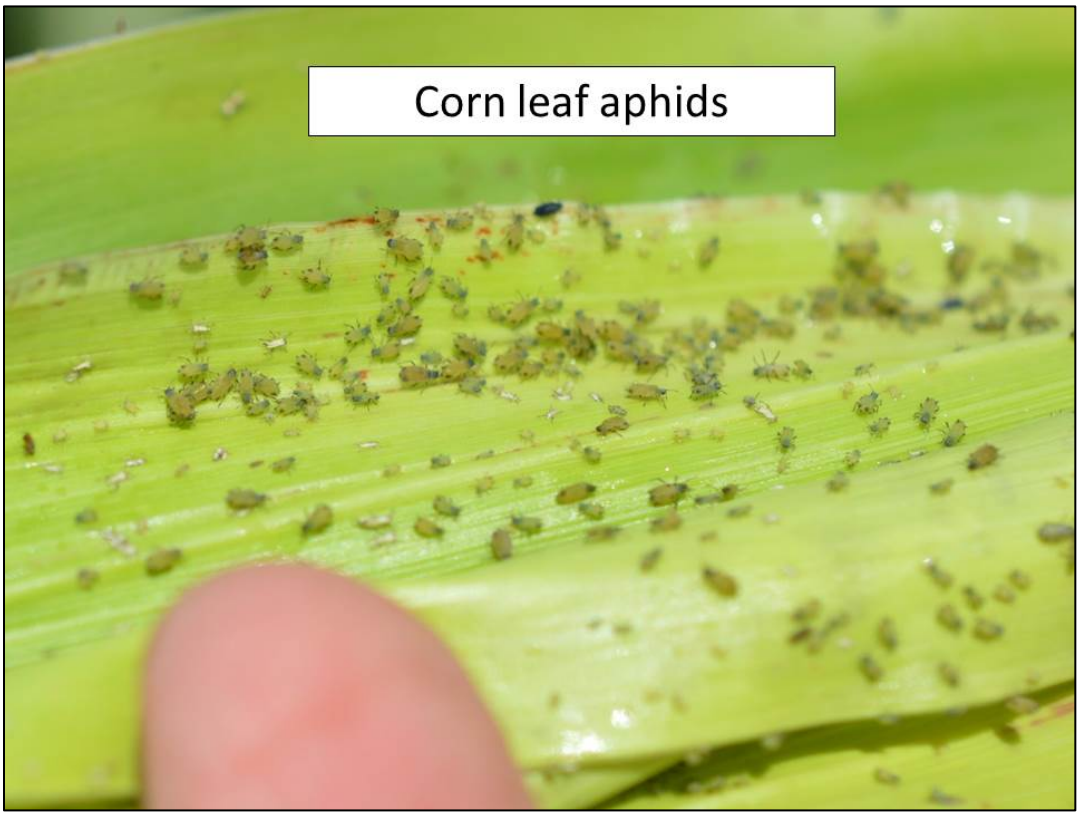
HOME

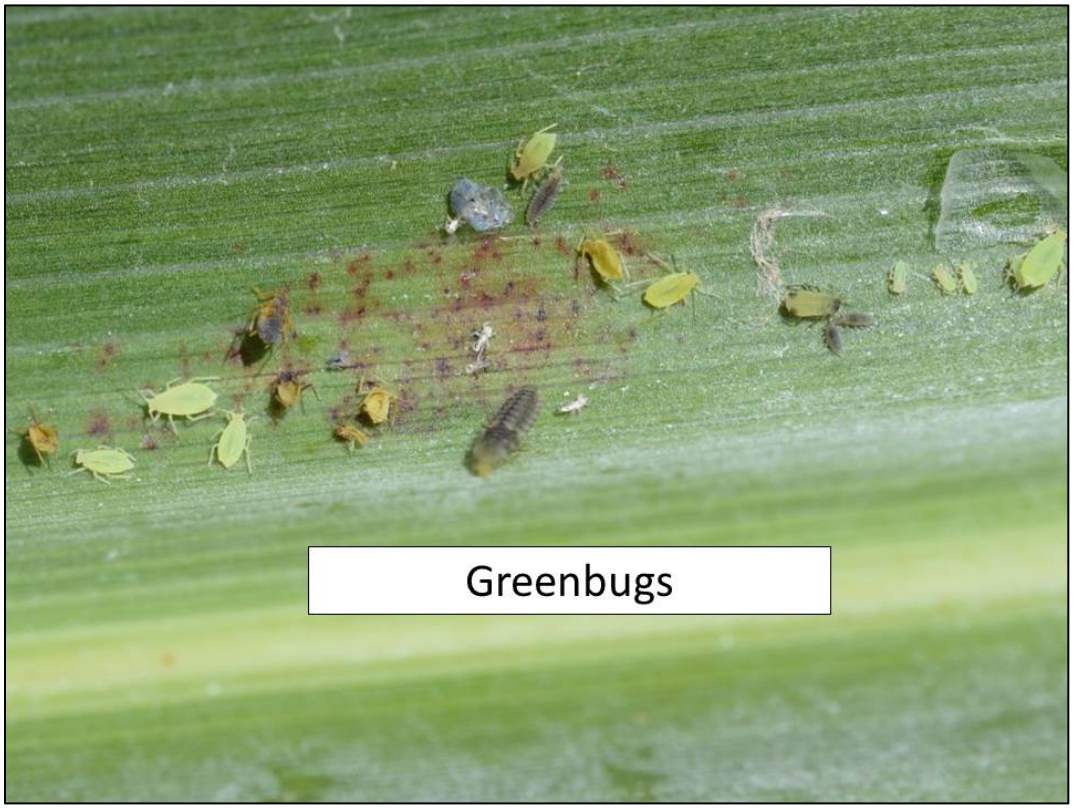
Sorghum Update

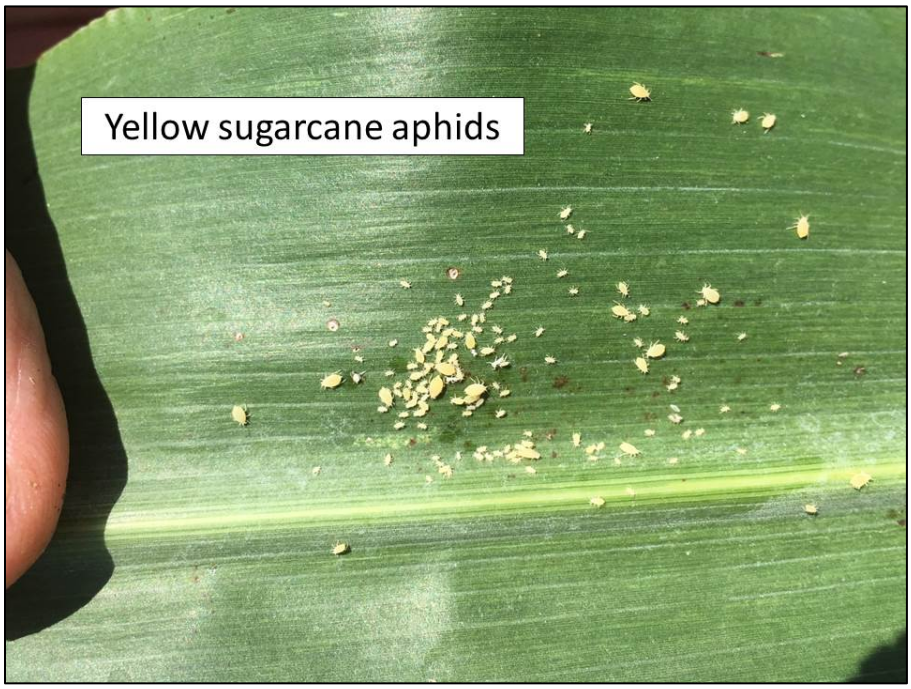
Double cropped sorghum in north central KS seems to have a significant infestation of "ragworms". The larvae are a combination of fall armyworms and corn earworms and are of various sizes.

Leaf feeding in the whorl by either species is highly visible but should not have a significant effect on the plants or yield.

Also, most fields in north central KS are infested with aphids. Corn leaf aphids can produce a great deal of honeydew but mostly in the whorls. This honeydew may retard head extension but usually does not affect many plants over a large area.


Corn leaf aphids


Greenbugs



Also found greenbugs and yellow sugarcane aphids. None of the invasive white sugarcane aphids (usually referred to sugarcane aphids or SCA) were detected in north central Kansas. However, many beneficials are, and will continue to be, present in sorghum fields as evidenced by the numerous green lacewing eggs and lady beetle eggs.

Jeff Whitworth Holly Schwarting

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html

Eva Zurek

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