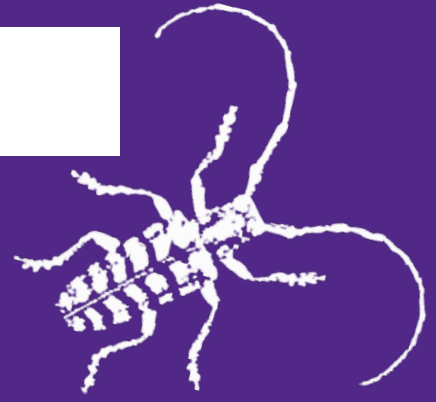


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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



May 20, 2016 No 11

Sugarcane Aphids
Sorghum Headworms and Soybean Podworms
Soybean Pests Update
Spiders
Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Sugarcane Aphids

Sugarcane aphids are rapidly increasing throughout north central Kansas. Many fields previously treated for headworms have reduced beneficials populations, but beneficials are coming back.



Lady beetle larva

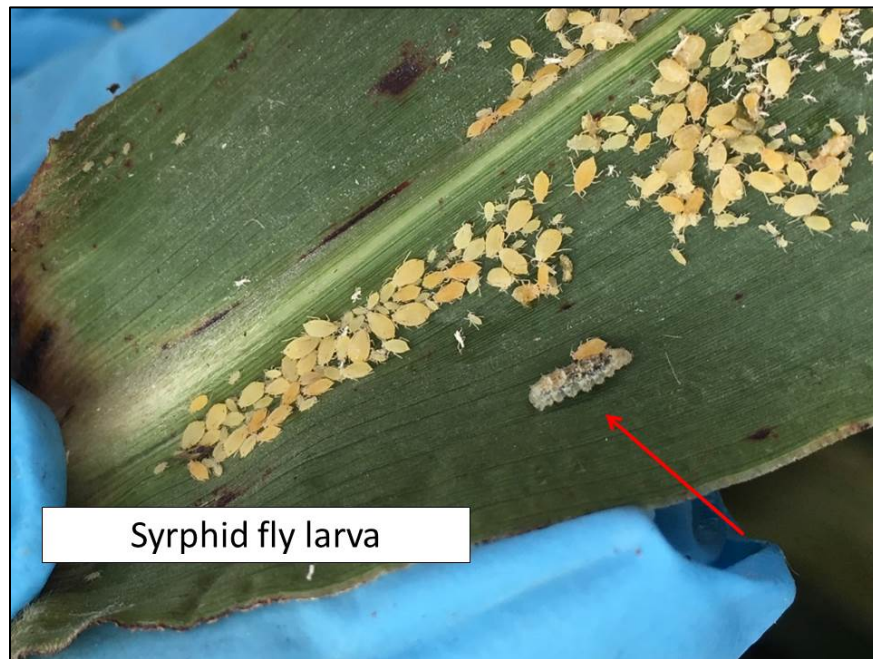




Green lacewing larva



Green lacewing



These fields also probably had aphids in the heads and top leaves which were controlled with the spray and the residual activity will probably last for a couple weeks after this application. However, the lower leaves that are aphid infested will not be affected by this headworm treatment. So, now the question is: if I have aphids infesting 100% of my sorghum plants and they are producing great quantities of honeydew, what should I do to protect sorghum that, right now, is worth just a little over \$2/bushel?





Unfortunately, there is not an easy or perfect answer. But, here is what you should consider:

- In the 10 to 15 days after flowering, sugars, amino acids, and proteins produced in the leaves are transported to the kernel where they are converted to starch and protein and kernels will reach their maximum size during this time (Gerik, Bean, and Vanderlip, Sorghum Growth and Development, B-6137). After this, the foliage is not really needed by the plant for further yield production.
- Sugarcane aphids will be sucking the sap out of leaves, although they do not inject any toxins which impact plant health, and thus producing copious quantities of honeydew. This feeding will not kill the leaves immediately, but if allowed to feed unchecked might kill them eventually. However, if the

Kansas Insect Newsletter

April 21, 2016 No 7

sorghum is at least 10 days past flowering, this aphid feeding, and honeydew production and consequent sooty mold development should not impact grain production, i.e. yield.

- So, at this point we only need to be concerned with the stickiness of the honeydew, and it is *sticky*, interfering with harvest. If you spray now at \$10-25/acre to decimate the aphid populations in the head, or before they move into the head (and they will move into the head because the plant dries from the bottom up, thus the last plant juices will be found in the head) and use 5-20 gal./acre of carrier, it should do a good job of cleaning up the aphids.



We have found that once the aphids stop actively producing honeydew, it quickly loses its stickiness. Residual activity for most of these insecticides seems to be about 2 weeks. If you are going to harvest within that 2 week period, spraying will get rid of the aphids, honeydew, and stickiness. However last year, and the only year we have had any experience with these aphids, they were still migrating into north central Kansas in late October. Therefore the harvest-ability problem may return before harvest, and therefore another application will be needed.

- Sugarcane aphids are considered a subtropical insect, so cool and cold weather should slow down reproduction and/or kill populations off. So, if harvest will not be done until after the first hard freeze, populations, and thus the sticky honeydew, will likely be gone. However, weather changes predicted for the next couple of weeks will probably not reduce aphid populations in any way.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

April 21, 2016 No 7

In summary and conclusion, if sorghum is 10 days past flowering, sugarcane aphid infestations should not impact yield although they will likely cause plants to dry down quicker. If stickiness in the heads will interfere with harvest you may consider killing the aphids prior to harvest at \$10 – 25/acre. Remember to check pre-harvest intervals on insecticide labels! If you choose to spray now, use *at least* 5 gal/acre – more is better! Another option is to hold off spraying and hope beneficials or cold weather control aphids before harvest. Beneficials are still present and hopefully will be increasing.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

J.R. Ewing

[HOME](#)

Sorghum Headworms and Soybean Podworms

Most sorghum is at least flowering with much into milk, soft dough and even black layer. Thus, headworm susceptible stages are mostly past as flowering to soft dough is the time frame for headworm vulnerability. Once these advanced stages have been reached the head moth will start ovipositing in soybeans. Soybeans then need to be continuously monitored, as long as there are new pods, for podworm damage and/or smaller podworms.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

J.R. Ewing

[HOME](#)

Soybean Pests Update

Green cloverworms have moved into the pupal stage, for the most part, and thus have finished feeding on leaves. There will probably be another generation of green cloverworms so any late planted soybeans may be at risk for defoliation again although it probably not enough to warrant an insecticide application. Adult bean leaf beetles and stink bugs may also still be present in soybean fields and feeding on beans as long as they are still filling inside the pods, so monitoring should continue until pods are mature.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

J.R. Ewing

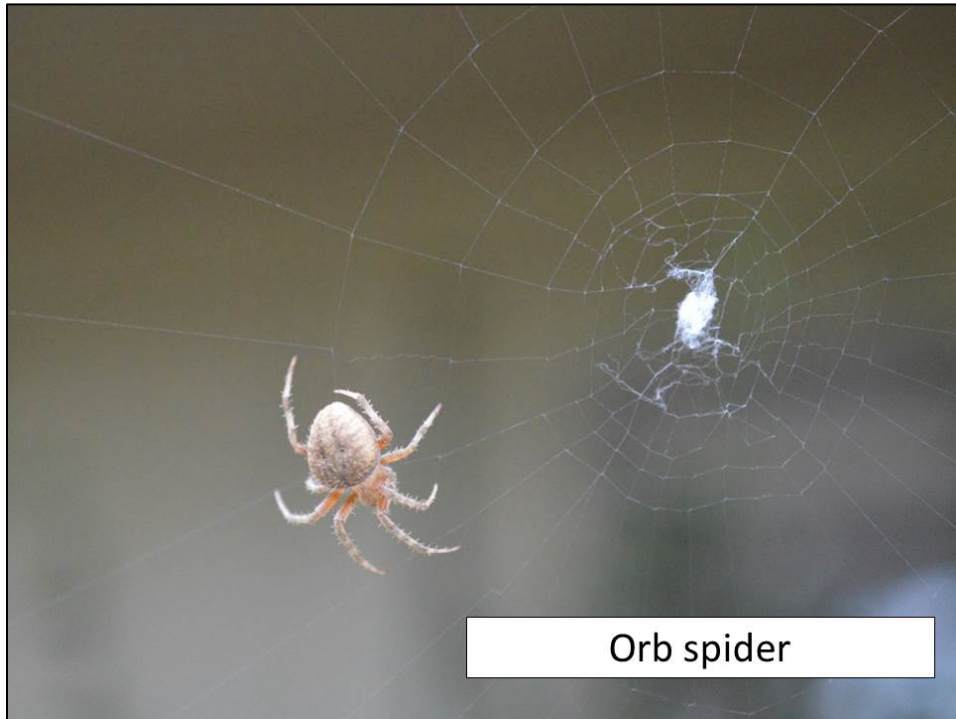
[HOME](#)

Spiders

Many spiders are reaching maturity this time of year and numerous species stretch webs everywhere trying to catch a few insects before cold weather sets in. Although large, and to many frightening, most are totally harmless and all are beneficial by eating other insects including mosquitos and flies which are currently numerous.







Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

J.R. Ewing

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

HOME

Kansas Insect Newsletter

April 21, 2016 No 7

Sincerely,

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

Holly Schwarting
Research Associate
Phone: (785) 532-4730
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

Eva Zurek
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4710
e-mail: ezurek@ksu.edu



Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact *LOCAL NAME, PHONE NUMBER*. (For TDD, contact Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 785-532-4807.)

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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, John D. Floros, Director.