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June 16, 2017 No 12

Bean Leaf Beetles in Soybeans
Alfalfa Update
Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Bean Leaf Beetles in Soybeans

Soybeans seem to be growing really well around north central Kansas. As these plants start germinating and growing, however, they provide very attractive hosts for bean leaf beetles.



BLB.jpg 58.9 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Kansas Insect Newsletter

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These soybean pests have been inhabiting alfalfa fields and grassy areas since last fall, waiting for these first soybeans. They are very efficient at finding young, succulent soybeans when the plants start emerging. They are also relatively unique as foliage feeders because they usually chew round and/or oblong holes in the leaves.



BLB damage.jpg 87.4 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

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These beetles can eat an alarming number of holes in these small plants. However, the young plants are very resilient at overcoming this leaf feeding and so there is normally very little impact on yield. For more information on bean leaf beetle biology, treatment thresholds, and management options please see the following:

Bean Leaf Beetles: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2824.pdf>

Soybean Insect Management Guide: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF743.pdf>

Jeff Whitworth

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Alfalfa Update

Potato leafhoppers have been infesting alfalfa fields throughout north central Kansas for at least the last month. They continue to be very active, which is causing quite a bit of leaf yellowing, often called 'hopper burn', and even stem and whole-plant stress. Typically, swathing is sufficient to manage leafhopper populations. However, they have been actively reproducing and there are many nymphs, so it will be especially important to continue to scout these fields after swathing. If a stubble spray is deemed necessary after swathing, one application is often highly effective and re-infestation is unusual.



PLH.jpg 34.3 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)



hopper burn.jpg 126 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Alfalfa caterpillars are also quite common in alfalfa fields, where they feed on foliage, although they rarely do enough damage to warrant an insecticide application. They will eventually pupate and then turn into a yellow or white sulphur butterfly.



alfalfa caterpillar.jpg 61.1 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

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Sincerely,

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