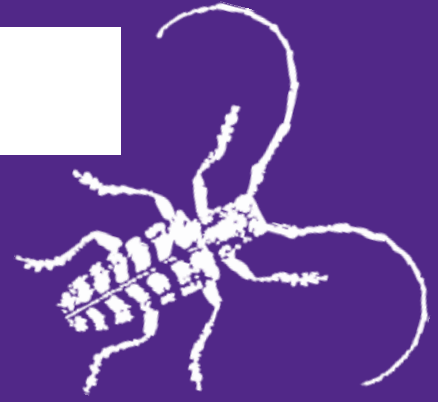


# Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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**June 13, 2019 #10**

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Alfalfa Update – Potato Leafhoppers and Pea Aphids  
Corn Update – Corn Rootworms and “Ragworms”  
Soybean Update – Thistle Caterpillars and Bean Leaf Beetles

## Alfalfa Update – Potato Leafhoppers and Pea Aphids

Alfalfa seems to be growing very well and many fields around north central Kansas have finally dried out enough to swath and remove the hay from the field. However, potato leafhoppers continue to migrate into the state and will continue to for about another month. Most are still adults and have been/are now depositing eggs in stems and the tiny nymphs are just starting to emerge. Thus, potato leafhopper feeding will become more evident as “hopper burn”, the yellowing of leaves which can reduce the health of the plants and the nutritive value of the foliage. Therefore, if fields were just recently cut, or will be in the near future, while potato leafhoppers are still migrating into the state, they will be very vulnerable to potato leafhopper feeding damage.



# Kansas Insect Newsletter

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Pea aphids are still plentiful throughout alfalfa fields in north central Kansas. Populations should not reach treatable levels this late in the year, and they are a good host for many beneficial insects.



For more information regarding these and other alfalfa pests, please see the KSU Alfalfa Insect Management Guide: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf809.pdf>

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

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## Corn Update – Corn Rootworms and “Ragworms”

Corn rootworm larvae continue to be very active in fields of continuous corn that have been planted to susceptible varieties.

Corn earworms have been feeding in north central Kansas corn for about a week now and signs of this feeding are now becoming visible as the leaves start growing out of the whorl. The small larvae may consist of corn earworms, fall armyworms, and/or armyworms, but all may cause the same type of ragged looking leaves, earning them the name “ragworms”.





This type of leaf feeding can be highly visible, and many plants can be impacted, but the data has always indicated there is little to no effect on yield. In addition, the larvae are well sheltered within the whorl and thus insecticides only impact them when they exit the whorls to pupate in the soil. And, by that time, all the feeding is completed anyway.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

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## Soybean Update – Thistle Caterpillars and Bean Leaf Beetles

Thistle caterpillars are becoming more evident around north central Kansas as they increase in size and their feeding becomes more visible. These larvae are the result of eggs deposited by painted lady butterflies that migrated back into the state about two weeks ago. These larvae will pupate in a couple of weeks and the adults will emerge soon after. There will probably be even more in the next generation.



Round and/or oblong holes in seedling soybeans are indicative of adult bean leaf beetle (BLB) feeding. Remember, these young plants are very resilient at overcoming up to about 50% defoliation in these early vegetative stages. It takes approximately seven adult BLB/row ft. to achieve that level of defoliation. However, adult BLB usually don't feed for more than a few days after locating the seedling soybeans. While this feeding can cause considerable concern because of the highly visual holes, it typically does not result in much stress to the plants, especially under good growing conditions.

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For more information on bean leaf beetle biology and management, please see Bean Leaf Beetle:  
<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2824.pdf>

For more information relative to all soybean pests, please see the KSU Soybean Insect Management Guide:  
<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF743.pdf>

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**Sincerely,**

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