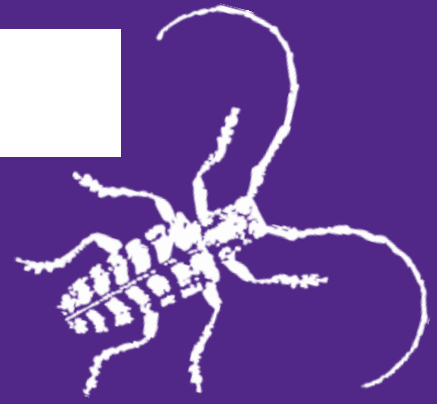


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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May 1, 2019 #4

Pesticide Recordkeeping Survey
How to Avoid Getting "Bored" by the Ash/Lilac Borer
Alfalfa Weevil Update
Wheat Aphids
Revised Extension Publications

Pesticide Recordkeeping Survey

Private applicators are required to keep records of their restricted use pesticide (RUP) applications. The classification of several commonly used herbicides to restricted use means more private applicators are in need of an improved mechanism to keep these records. The Kansas State Pesticide Safety program is trying to collect some data on what producers are wanting/needing to be able to keep more accurate, efficient records. The program has developed a short survey consisting of 7 questions and wants to obtain feedback from across the state. The purpose of this survey is to gather your perceptions related to the use of pesticide recordkeeping books/apps and what you would most likely use. The information you provide will aid us in determining the need for and content of a newly developed pesticide recordkeeping book to assist in tracking pesticide application/use.

Please go to: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_86r84iID5huDIUZ to complete the survey and give us your feedback.

Frannie Miller

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How to Avoid Getting “Bored” by the Ash/Lilac Borer

Now is the time to take “action” to prevent damage from the ash/lilac borer (*Podosesia syringae*). Ash/lilac borer adults are typically active from late-April through June, although activity is contingent on temperature. Adults are brown, clearwing moths that look-like paper wasps (Figure 1). Adult females lay tan, oval-shaped eggs in cracks and crevices, or wounds at the base of plant stems. One female can live for approximately one week and lay up to 400 eggs. Below are nine points associated with the life history and management of ash/lilac borer:



Fig 1. Ash/Lilac Borer Adult (Author--City of Edmonton)

1. The larvae are responsible for causing plant damage by tunneling and feeding within the bark (cambium). Larvae can also tunnel further into the wood and feed within the sapwood and heartwood.

2. Larval feeding restricts the flow of water and nutrients; thus resulting in shoot or branch dieback. Ash/lilac borer larvae feed at the base of plant stems causing swollen areas or cracks, and they also feed where major branches attach to the trunk.

3. The presence of light-colored sawdust (frass) accumulating at the base of infected trees or shrubs (Figure 2) is evidence of larval feeding.

4. Ash/lilac borer overwinters as a late-instar larva located in feeding tunnels or galleries.

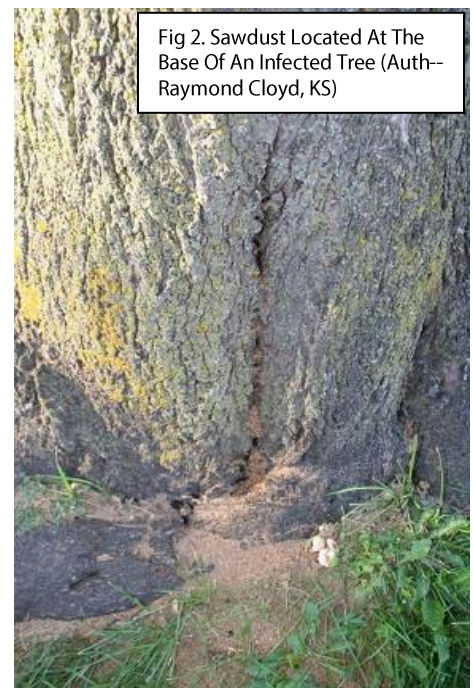


Fig 2. Sawdust Located At The Base Of An Infected Tree (Auth--Raymond Cloyd, KS)



Fig 3. Pupal Cases of AshLilac Borer Protruding From Tree Trunk (Auth–Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

5. Trees or shrubs infested with ash/lilac borers will have brown papery pupal cases protruding from the bark (Figure 3), which is where adults emerge from.

6. There is generally one generation per year in Kansas.

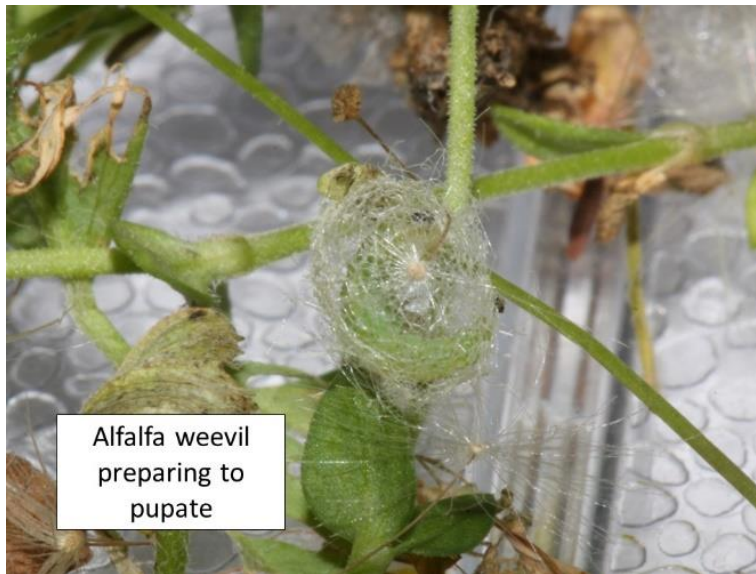
7. The primary means of avoiding problems with ash/lilac borer is to avoid 'plant stress' by providing proper cultural practices including; irrigation (watering), fertilization, pruning, and mulching. In general, stressed plants are more susceptible to attack by ash/lilac borer than 'healthy plants.' A two to three foot wide mulched area around the base of trees and shrubs prevents injury from lawn mowers and weed-trimmers that can girdle trees and shrubs leading to 'stress.' Moreover, avoid pruning plants in late spring through early summer (under usual weather conditions) as this is when adults are typically present and the volatiles emitted from pruning cuts may attract adult females.

8. Insecticides containing the active ingredients, permethrin, bifenthrin, or chlorantraniliprole can be applied to the bark—at least up to six feet from the base—to prevent ash/lilac borer larvae from entering which exposes them to insecticide sprays. Once larvae are inside the plant, they are not susceptible to insecticide sprays. Systemic insecticides applied to the soil or injected into trees or shrubs do not provide reliable control of the ash/lilac borer.

9. Commercially available pheromone traps capture adult males, which help estimate when females will be laying eggs. Pheromone traps help appropriately time insecticide applications. Insecticide spray applications should begin seven to 10 days after capturing the first adults. Check pheromone traps two to three times per week for the presence of newly captured adult males.

Alfalfa Weevil Update

This week's cool, wet weather has kept many growers and applicators out of alfalfa fields. The cooler weather has slowed down alfalfa weevil activity – but not by much. Remember, they feed 24/7 as long as the ambient temperature, where they are feeding, is over 48°F. Thus, field monitoring needs to continue until most larvae have pupated or fields are swathed, as weather allows.



If insecticide applications are chosen please remember to consult the label for the pre-harvest interval (PHI) of the insecticide selected. For more information relative to alfalfa weevil management, please refer to the KSU Alfalfa Insect Management Guide: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF809.pdf>

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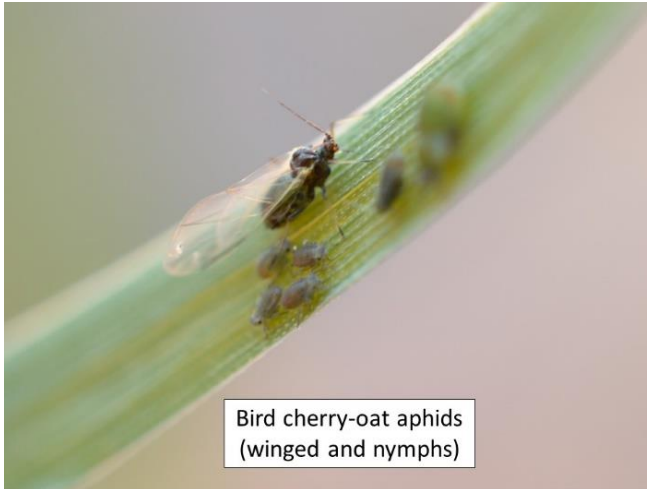
Wheat Aphids

We are getting calls relative to wheat aphids in many fields throughout south central and north central Kansas. So far they are mainly bird cherry-oat aphids but a few greenbugs as well. This is normal for this time of year. These aphids migrate in, or are blown in, all spring on southern winds. However, at this time of year/ this stage of wheat development, there is little to worry about relative to aphid feeding. Also, the weather has been conducive to wheat growth so any aphid population buildup should not significantly

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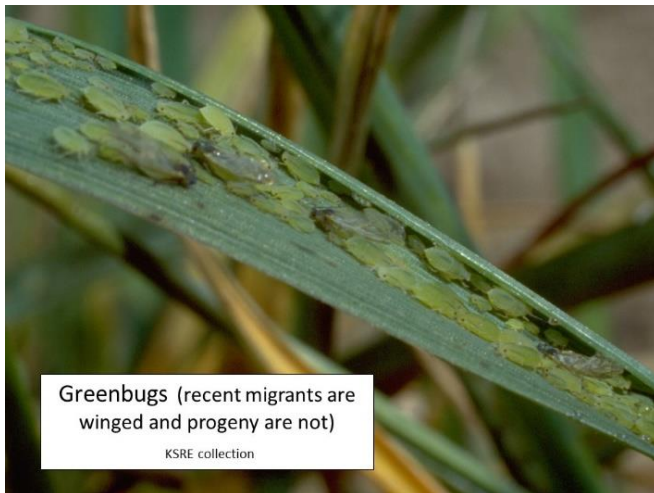
impact the wheat. Any viruses aphids may vector should not impact the wheat at this developmental stage enough to significantly reduce yields. Aphid populations now will provide a food source and thus help many beneficial insect populations establish for later season aphid invasions.



Bird cherry-oat aphids
(winged and nymphs)



Bird cherry-oat
aphids



Greenbugs (recent migrants are
winged and progeny are not)
KSRE collection



Greenbug

It is not a good practice to mix a little insecticide in with a fungicide treatment “just in case”, as this is deadly to beneficial insects, i.e. lady beetles, lacewings, etc. that will provide help later in the growing season on other crops. Yes, it does save on the cost of an insecticide application but will probably do much more harm than good at this time of year. For more information on wheat insect management, please refer to the KSU Wheat Insect Management Guide: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf745.pdf>

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Revised Extension Publications

Blister Beetles in Kansas, MF959, originally published by Robert Bauernfeind, Randall Higgins, Sue Blodgett, and Lowell Breeden in 1990 has been revised by Holly Davis and Jeff Whitworth. It is now available at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Item.aspx?catId=573&pubId=1549>

Corn Rootworm Management in Kansas Field Corn, MF845, originally published by Randall Higgins, Gerald E. Wilde, and Timothy Gibb in 1995 has been revised by Holly Davis and Jeff Whitworth. It is now available at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Item.aspx?catId=221&pubId=1502>

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Department of Entomology

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