

# Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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**May 22, 2020 No 7**

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ID to last week's bug

Identify This Insect

ALFALFA—Pea Aphids, Lady Beetles, Syrphid Fly

TERMITES

## **ID to last week's bug**

**Robber Fly**– This is an example of a robber fly. They are great predators and feed on a wide variety of arthropods, such as wasps, bees, grasshoppers etc. Robber flies have bristled, strong legs to help aid in catching prey.

Frannie Miller

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HOME

Identify This Insect

Can you identify this insect and share one interesting fact you found?



## ALFALFA—Pea Aphids, Lady Beetles, Syrphid Fly

Pea aphids are still quite active throughout north central Kansas. However, most populations have been considerably diminished for several reasons, but now are mainly just a food source for various beneficial insects (fig. 1) as seen here, two species of lady beetles actively feeding on pea aphids, and (fig. 2) a syrphid fly larva that was also actively feeding on pea aphids.



Figure 1 Lady Beetle feeding on pea aphid  
(Cody Wyckoff)



Figure 2 Syrphid fly larva feeding on pea aphid  
(Cody Wyckoff)

Pea aphids are usually considered a pest when populations approach or exceed a treatment threshold, they can also be useful as a food source for beneficials until other aphid species increase, if they do, in other crops. Even though these aphids are still plentiful in most north central Kansas alfalfa fields, there was NONE that came anywhere close to a treatment threshold. Also, a very few alfalfa weevil larvae (fig. 3) can also be found, this is not unusual, or a cause for concern.



Figure 3 Alfalfa weevil larva (Cody Wyckoff)

Jeff Whitworth

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## TERMITES

It seems termite swarming "season" is a little later than usual. However, they are now swarming in different parts of the state (fig. 4) (see picture from Sedgwick Co. on 20 May). Please remember to properly distinguish between ant swarmer's vs. termite swarmer's (fig. 5) (see diagram) as termite colonies are much more difficult (and expensive) to control than are ant colonies.



Figure 4 Termites swarming from a local business (20 May 2020)

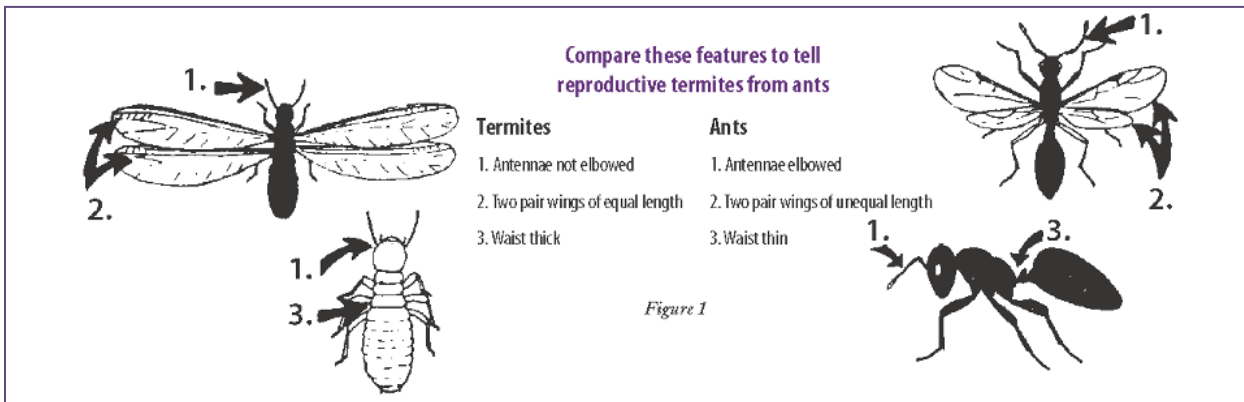


Figure 1

Figure 5 Diagram comparing termites and ants

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Sincerely,

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