



# Pest e-alerts



---

Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University  
127 Noble Research Center, Stillwater, OK 74078  
405.744.5527

---

Vol. 29, No. 30

<http://entopl.okstate.edu/pddl/pdidl>

Aug 8, 2016

---

## False Chinch Bugs in Sorghum, 2016

Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomology Specialist

I have received several reports of false chinch bug infesting sorghum heads. As sorghum begins to head, it is important to make sure your crop is not being damaged by this insect. This insect injures plants by sucking the liquid in developing seeds when they are in the milk stage. It has a life span of about 40 days (from egg hatch through adult).



**Description:** False chinch bug adults measure about 1/8-inch-long, are dirty gray, with brown or black markings. Nymphs are ash-gray with brown-white mottling on the back and red mottling on the abdomen.

**Sampling:** Sorghum heads must be examined to determine the need for control of panicle-feeding bugs. The shake bucket/baggie method of scouting works well for sampling fields. Carefully move to a plant without disturbing it, quickly shake the head into the bucket or plastic bag, and shake it vigorously. Count all false chinch bugs that fall into the bucket or garbage bag. Adult bugs will fly out of the bucket, so be prepared to count “flying” bugs. Inspect at least 1 head per acre of field (minimum 30 samples) and continue scouting sorghum until the head has reached soft dough.



**Control Decisions:** False chinch bugs are not likely to cause economic injury when sorghum matures past the milk stage, so treatment for false chinch bugs after milk stage is not likely to provide economic benefit. Before milk stage, treat when scouting indicates more than 140 false chinch bugs per head. If maturity is variable, look to see where most of the false chinch bugs are located. If they are feeding on heads with seed past the soft dough stage, you may not need to treat a field. See CR-7170, Management of Sorghum Insects, or E-832, OSU Extension Agents' Handbook of Insect, Plant disease and Weed Control for current recommendations.

---

**Co-Editors: Eric Rebek and Justin Talley; Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service**

The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow label directions. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Higher Education Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, genetic information, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, or status as a veteran, in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This provision includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. The Director of Equal Opportunity, 408 Whitehurst, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078-1035; Phone 405-744-5371; email: [eeo@okstate.edu](mailto:eeo@okstate.edu) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity. Any person (student, faculty, or staff) who believes that discriminatory practices have been engaged in based on gender may discuss his or her concerns and file informal or formal complaints of possible violations of Title IX with OSU's Title IX Coordinator 405-744-9154.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President, Dean, and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.