



Pest e-alerts



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

Vol. 15, No. 31

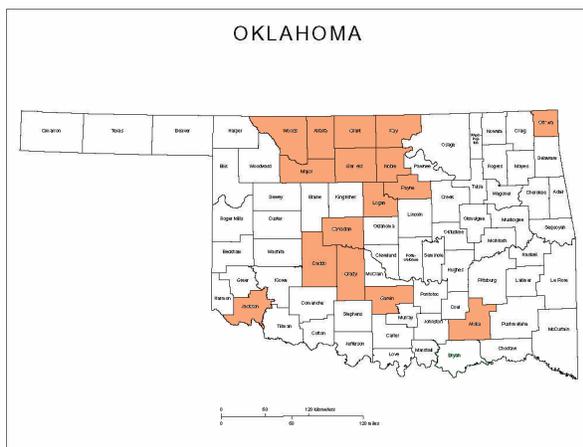
<http://entopl.okstate.edu/pddl/pddl>

Aug 16, 2016

Sugarcane Aphid, Sorghum Headworm, and Sorghum Midge Management in Double-Cropped or Late-maturing Sorghum

Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomologist, and Jess Pavlu, Graduate Research Assistant.

We are still getting reports of sugarcane aphids infesting sorghum, including double-cropped sorghum. To date, sugarcane aphids have been reported in sorghum fields in more than 14 counties (and are probably present in any Oklahoma county with sorghum). Josh Lofton, Cropping System Specialist at OSU reported sorghum fields were infested in Major, Woods, and Garfield counties. Rick Kochenower, National Sales Agronomist with Sorghum Partners, reported sugarcane aphids infesting sorghum in Ottawa county.



Do not ignore your double-cropped sorghum. Throughout the summer, we have seen winged sugarcane aphid move from maturing fields into younger fields. Despite that, there are some fields that have not reached treatment thresholds, especially fields that were planted with varieties that have been identified as resistant or tolerant to the sugarcane aphid. Currently the suggested treatment threshold is to treat when 20-30 percent of the plants are infested with one or more established colonies of sugarcane aphids. An established colony is an adult (winged or wingless) accompanied by one or more nymphs.

A complicating factor in later maturing sorghum has to do with sorghum headworms. Both corn earworm and fall armyworms have been abundant this year. While sorghum is out of the woods for headworm



damage once it reaches hard-dough, fields that are heading, flowering or setting seed through soft-dough are vulnerable to yield robbers like headworms. Check out the Headworm Sequential Sampling and Decision Support system,

(<http://entoplp.okstate.edu/shwweb/index.htm>). This computer-based program will calculate an economic threshold for headworms and provide a simple sampling plan, using your input on plant population, crop value and control costs to let you know if that threshold has been reached.

If you find that you need to control both headworms and aphids, a tank mix of Sivanto or Transform with Blackhawk, Prevathon or Belt would be options. Data that I have reviewed from other insecticide trials suggests that Prevathon and Blackhawk provide excellent control of headworms.

At this time of year, sorghum midge may also be a problem in blooming sorghum. Scout for midge by placing a 1-gallon plastic bag over each head, and “thump it”. The midges will fly upward. Remove the bag and contents and look for midges inside the plastic baggie. Check 25-40 flowering heads per field. Make sure you have great eyesight, your reading glasses, or a 10x magnifier, because this reddish colored fly is tiny, measures about 1/16 inch. Without disturbing the plant, look for small gnat-sized flies that are moving about the head or are laying eggs on flowers with extended anthers. The best time to scout for sorghum midge is when they are most active (9:00 - 11:00 am). Begin scouting when the heads first emerged heads begin pollinating and continue every 3 days until the bloom is finished.



The economic threshold is 1 midge per head for susceptible varieties or 5 midges per head for resistant varieties. Contact your seed dealer for information on its midge-resistance package. Blackhawk is also registered for control of sorghum midge, so if your scouting reveals a sorghum midge infestation that has reached threshold it would be your best choice, as it will also control headworms. Consult CR-7170, *Management of Insect and Mite Pests in Sorghum* for additional information on sorghum insect pest management.

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 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.