



# Pest e-alerts



---

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

---

Vol. 17, No. 20

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

06/25/2018

---

## Chinch Bugs Showing Up in Sorghum

Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomologist

Ph.D. student Jessica Lindenmayer reported finding chinch bugs in several of the sorghum fields as she was scouting this week. Historically, chinch bugs tended to build up in wheat, at which time the nymphs would migrate to nearby planted fields of corn or sorghum and mature into adults. More recently, we are seeing more injury from the second generation of chinch bugs, which are now laying eggs. Most of the corn has now “outgrown” the potential for injury from this generation of chinch bugs. For sorghum, it is a different story. As few as 2-3 chinch bugs can kill a seedling sorghum plant, but it will take 5-10 bugs per plant to kill larger plants. Large numbers of chinch bugs can cause weakened stalks and predispose plants to lodging. Plants under drought stress are more prone to injury and are more difficult to control with insecticides.

Adult chinch bug (3/16 inch)



Fig 2. Chinch bug nymphs



Fig 3: Chinch bug damage



There are several options for control of chinch bugs. Sorghum seed treated with a systemic insecticide such as clothianidin, imadacloprid, or thiamethoxam will “slow them down” for about three weeks and give the sorghum plant a good head start.

For rescue management of chinch bugs, apply an insecticide as a border treatment or full field treatment. Treat the whole field if the infestation is widespread. Chinch bugs are very difficult to control, especially as the sorghum gets taller. For sorghum that is seedling to V-7 growth stage, consider banding the spray over the row. For taller plants, ground applications using 20 to 30 gallons of water per acre and directed at the base of the plant provide the best option for control. Products registered to control chinch bug are listed in [EPP-7170 “Management of Insect and Mite Pests in Sorghum”](#) which can be obtained from your local County Extension Office.

---

**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.