

August 13, 2010

WATCH FOR LATE SEASON SOYBEAN PESTS

Last week I assisted with the Soybean Management Field Day south of Auburn, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board in partnership with University of Nebraska Extension. The field day site was about 6 miles west of my old high school at Stella which is now merged with HTRS. It is always fun to see local producers there that I recognized. Also, Rodney Smith of DeWitt, treasurer of the Nebraska Soybean Association, was on hand, and at noon, talked about the importance of one voice in Washington, D.C.

One of the topics at the field day was emerging soybean pests including stink bugs and *Dectes* stem borer. These pests have been increasing in numbers in Nebraska soybeans the past couple years.

Stink bugs can be found throughout Nebraska and stem borer has been a problem along the southern tier counties. Aphids have become an annual problem and can be an issue anywhere in Nebraska, but this year, the 90 plus degree temperatures has held them in check.

There are four species of stink bugs in Nebraska soybean fields and they have easy names. The green stink bug, brown stink bug, the one spotted stink bug and the red-shouldered stink bug. All are “shield shaped” as nymphs and adults. Another brown stink bug, the spined soldier bug, is a beneficial predatory insect.

Stink bugs typically enter fields as they begin to flower. In fact, they can often be found on the flowering plants around the field prior to moving into a field. They injure soybeans by puncturing various soybean plant parts and extracting plant fluids. They prefer young tender growth and developing seeds. Injury often appears first on plant borders as they move into a field. With time, the stink bugs can move throughout the field.

For now, our Nebraska recommendation is a threshold of 1 per foot of row during reproductive stages of the soybean crop. If a threshold is met, consider a standard insecticide treatment registered for soybean.

Stem borer has been increasing its presence in our area and south central Nebraska. The adult is a gray, elongate beetle about ½ inch long with antennae that are longer than its body. Eggs are laid in punctures in the petioles of soybeans. Larvae begin feeding in the pith and tunnel down into the main stem. In the fall, the mature larvae move to the base of the plant and girdle the inside of the stem about 2 to 4 inches above the soil line.

The biggest problem with this late season pest is lodging of the plants and subsequent harvest losses. Currently there are no registered insecticide treatments for this pest in Nebraska. If you have a field with a history of this pest, those fields should be targeted for harvest first to minimize harvest losses due to stem borer injury. More information on late season crop pest issues can be found at cropwatch.unl.edu on the web.



Randy Pryor, Extension Educator

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County • 306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, NE
68465

Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: randy.pryor@unl.edu

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

