

WHAT IS THAT BUG?

Last week a client brought in a large insect that was in their high tunnel. It was a green June beetle. We have had a few of them in the area in previous years. They are large beetles and are voracious eaters. They usually like fruit; i.e apricots, plums or raspberries, but do not feed on agronomic crops. They usually like to live and lay eggs in areas that are high in organic matter, like a cow lot. They buzz like a bumblebee, but do not harm humans or are they a pest to agronomic crops.



Another pest you should be aware of is the Japanese beetle. Some of these beetles started showing up last year. I had my first report of the Japanese beetle in the area last week in Richardson County. The beetles were in a soybean field and also in a large Elm tree. Their favorite foliage to eat is the leaves of the Linden or Basswood tree. In high numbers they can completely defoliate a Linden or other species of trees. They usually do not cause irreparable damage to trees and they will recover, but defoliation year after year by this beetle can be harmful. If they defoliate 30% in the vegetative stage or 20% in the reproductive stage, soybeans should be treated with an insecticide. Here is a link to a chart from NebGuide G2259 that explains how to estimate insect defoliation in soybeans:

<https://i0.wp.com/cropwatch.unl.edu/2017-CW-News/2017-images/insect-management/soybean-defoliation-guide.png?ssl=1> . There are several types of insecticide that are effective in controlling this pest, but you may need to spray multiple times. Insecticides available to control Japanese beetles are listed in the 2020 Guide for Weed, Disease, and Insect Management, Extension publication (EC130) on pages 323-328. If the beetles are on your trees or garden plants, you can pick these beetles off by hand and put them in soapy water, which will kill them. Be sure to keep an eye out for these beetles.

Another insect that has caused major problems in several counties in Nebraska the past couple of years including Otoe and Cass counties, has been the soybean gall midge. It has caused significant damage along the borders of several soybean fields. Unfortunately there is not much that can be done once the gall midge has infested the soybean plants. If you find several dead or dying soybean plants along the borders of soybean fields, it may be the soybean gall midge. The gall midges are a bright orange in color and very small. If you live in the surrounding area and believe you have soybean gall midge, please contact me at glesoing2@unl.edu or (402) 274-4755 or (402) 274-9639 (cell).



A final pest that could cause significant damage to crops and other plants is the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug. This bug has shown up periodically in southeast Nebraska, but not in high numbers. It appears to be moving westward from the east coast and damages fruits, vegetables and soybeans, while being a nuisance to homeowners as well. We actually have a trap set at the courthouse in Auburn this summer to see if any are in our area.

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