

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Wheat: Aphids in Wheat Are Not Too Much of a Threat at This Time

By Russ Patrick

One aphid, bird cherry-oat aphid, is responsible for transmission of barley yellows virus. The virus stunts the plants and delays maturity.



Bird Cherry-Oat Aphid

Insects on the horizon will be true armyworms and fall armyworms which can appear as early as mid-April to cause serious damage to wheat by feeding upon the foliage.



Fall Armyworm

Producers in the past have had to fight these pests to keep the fields from being denuded. They can damage the wheat by delaying growth or by feeding on the grain heads. There are a number of insecticides that can control these insects. Refer to UT-Crops.com for PB1728, which has all of our recommendations. You can also download the pdf file for later reference. Do not let insects damage your wheat this year because grain is bringing record high



Armyworm

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Wheat Insects Cause Serious Damage

By Russ Patrick

Wheat insects cause serious damage to wheat during the year beginning with aphids, armyworms and fall armyworms. These pests can denude a field if left unchecked. Producers should be checking their wheat about the middle of April if temperatures have warmed up enough to allow emergence of the armyworms. First armyworms to appear with be the true armyworm which attacks wheat in the spring appear. Aphids are present all year long but may or may not cause any damage to the crop. The one aphid I see causing trouble is the bird cherry-oat aphid which transmits barley yellows a virus which can stunt and reduce yields. They are difficult to see which is why we use a seed treatment at planting to reduce infestation of barley yellows. Over the top foliar sprays can be helpful but are not as accurate as using a seed treatment. Seed treatments negate the need for constant scouting of the wheat as it grows to maturity against aphids. See photos:



Fall Armyworm.

True Armyworm.



Agility Herbicide Approved For Wheat

By Darrell Hensley

DuPont has received registration approval from the U.S. EPA for Agility™ SG herbicide, a new product for wheat growers. Agility features four active ingredients and two modes of action in a single formulation to offer convenient, broad spectrum control without the hassles of mixing multiple products. Agility SG controls more than 80 tough broadleaf weeds, including Russian thistle, pigweed, kochia, and even ALS-resistant species. The product is also covered by the DuPont™ Crop Protection Plus® wheat program, which provides growers who purchase qualifying herbicides with product cost replacement if their crop is destroyed by drought, flood, frost/freeze, fire, or hail.

Wheat Disease Situation (Wheat under flood water)

By Melvin Newman

Wheat that is under flood water at this time will be in question for spraying a fungicide at early heading. Generally, if wheat is under water only for a short time (3-5 days) and it is still early in the growing season very little damage will occur and foliar fungicides may still be an effective option for increasing yield. But, if actively growing wheat stays under water (6 to 7 days or longer) chances are that yields will be reduced to the point that foliar fungicides will not be effective. The longer the wheat is under water and the warmer the temperatures are the less effective a foliar fungicide will be.

Presidio Fungicide Receives Registration

By Darrell Hensley

Valent U.S.A. Corp. has received federal registration from the Environmental Protection Agency for Presidio™ fungicide in leafy vegetables, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, and grapes. Presidio is targeted for vegetable and grape growers with crops threatened by downy mildews. In vegetables, it is labeled for control of late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*), and root, crown, and fruit rots caused by *Phytophthora capsici*. Presidio's is in a new chemical class which gives growers a powerful tool to control tough diseases and ward off resistance issues. This new chemistry protects crops with preventative control and some curative reach back action. Presidio has no known tank mix limitations with other fungicides or insecticides, allowing growers flexibility in their crop protection programs. Presidio can be shanked in soil, applied via sprinkler, or used as a foliar treatment. Read the label for additional information, and visit <http://www.valent.com/> for more information.

Two New Fungicides Offered by Phoenix Environmental Care

By Darrell Hensley

Phoenix Environmental Care LLC has added Raven 26GT (Iprodione) fungicide to its product lineup. The product is a broad-spectrum material that provides control of brown patch, dollar spot, and other turfgrass diseases. It is said to provide quick disease knockdown even in summer heat and humidity. They have also released Autograph, which is labeled to control pythium, phytophthora, and anthracnose and will be very useful in summer stress and summer decline management programs. The active ingredient in Autograph, fosetyl-al, has had no reported resistance problems in over 20-years of use. For more information visit the company website at www.phoenixenvcare.com.

Goose Repellent

By Darrell Hensley

Soil Technologies Corporation, has announced that its Armorex Goose Repellent, a broad-spectrum repellent that uses pepper and garlic oils as the ingredient, is now approved for golf course and horticultural use. A spray application with no re-entry interval, the product is labeled to control geese and other nuisance animals in golf courses and other landscapes settings. Contact the company at www.soiltechcorp.com for more information.

Fire Ant Seeders Available to Tennessee County Extension Agents

By Karen M. Vail

Seven Herd seeders are available for fire ant bait demonstrations. County Extension agents planning a fire ant bait demonstration can contact the agricultural agents in the following counties to coordinate borrowing a seeder: Henderson, Hickman, Lawrence, Bedford, Grundy, Rhea, or Polk. We also have one seeder in the Entomology and Plant Pathology (EPP) Department in Knoxville and a Gator, seeder and trailer that is stored in McMinnville that can be borrowed for this purpose. Contact me about borrowing the EPP or the McMinnville seeders. Currently scheduled demonstrations will compare IGR baits (Extinguish [methoprene], Esteem [pyriproxyfen]), a metabolic inhibitor bait (AmdroPro [hydramethylnon]), and a combination metabolic inhibitor and IGR bait (Extinguish Plus [hydramethylnon and methoprene]) against fire ants in pastures. Always remember the untreated control plots too! Most of the agents participating in the currently scheduled demonstrations will be applying bait in May when daily high temperatures are consistently between 70 and 85 F, rain is not forecasted for 24 hours and the ants are actively foraging. I'll be revising instructions on fire ant bait demonstrations and hope to have these posted to my blackboard site,

http://blackboard.utk.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=171030_1 in the near future.

Tobacco Blue Mold

By Darrell Hensley and Steve Bost

Blue mold was identified in a plant bed in northern Florida, near Alachua (Gainesville area) on March 12, 2008. The infection likely originated from spores from infected plants in Cuba. Thomas Keever from the North American Plant Disease Forecast Center (NAPDFC) at NCSU generated a potential spore transport scenario for Alachua County, FL for the period of February 22 through March 21 2008. The scenario suggested that spores could have been carried to the Florida area. The NAPDFC has received word that Cuba had a significant problem with blue mold during their recent growing season.

During this time, unfortunately, there were a number of opportunities for airborne spores to move over the growing regions to the north. The counts: eastern Carolinas (5 times), southern Appalachian Mountains (3 times), and the Ohio Valley (4 times). Numbers for the southern GA growing areas are significantly higher, of course, as localized to short-range transport events could impact that area. All of these occurred during the first 3 weeks of March. Conditions for survivable transport are unknown for most of these cases. However, it is likely that live spores may have been carried over other growing regions during some of these events. The March 19 event that crossed the eastern Carolinas is just one possible scenario.



Tobacco Blue Mold

So, what does this mean for Tennessee tobacco growers?? To reduce the possibility of blue mold in your area:

- 1) Do not import transplants of any age from Florida or southern Georgia, under any circumstances. Obtain plants from local sources or areas to your north. If you are producing transplants:
- 2) Inspect your beds daily for evidence of blue mold. Remember, blue mold in float beds does not look like blue mold in field plants. In beds, you may not see any nice, discreet, yellow spots, but instead a general chlorosis or mottling that resembles nutrient deficiency. Stems may be bluish (see photo). Other images can be seen at <http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=6938&start=1> .
- 3) Treat with protectant fungicides as soon as the plants are large enough. Dithane DF may be used, but unfortunately it is in short supply and may not be available for those who do not already have some on hand. Aliette and streptomycin also have some blue mold activity, and may be options, if Dithane is not available (PLEASE READ THE LABEL).

Fungicide treatment may begin when leaves are dime sized and repeated at weekly intervals. See SP 91, *Tobacco Pest Control*, for more information on the use of these materials.

With this early outbreak, it is likely we will be fighting blue mold in the field early this year as well. Producers may want to be checking supplies of Dithane, Forum, Acrobat, Quadris and Actigard, and thinking about their control strategies. Remember, each product has its pros and

cons. Pesticide labels should be reviewed prior to purchasing the product and prior to application.

Growers are encouraged to contact county extension personnel in the event they suspect the presence of tobacco blue mold so it may be confirmed and alerts may be directed to other areas. County extension personnel should contact Darrell Hensley or Steve Bost, so information may be provided to the state and regional alert systems.

Pesticide Application Recordkeeping

By Gene Burgess

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers the Federal recordkeeping regulations. The 1990 Farm Bill requires private certified pesticide applicators to keep records of all application of federally restricted-use pesticides. These records must be kept for 2 years; however, you may want to keep them longer for reference in making future management decisions.

Although applicators have 14 days to record information related to applications, it is a good idea to fill out the recordkeeping form immediately after application to be sure that you have an accurate and detailed record.

Commercial applicators are required to provide their clients with a copy of the record within 30 days of application. Application information is also required for fields receiving spot treatments.

The Worker Protection Standards (WPS) is a Federal regulation that is intended to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning and injury among agricultural workers. Private applicators who hire pesticide handlers and/or workers must display application information in a centrally located area accessible to all employees *before* a pesticide is applied. This display information applies to *all* pesticides with "Agricultural Use Requirements" printed on the label, not just restricted use pesticides.

Remember, according to the Tennessee law, Commercial Applicator must keep records of general-use and restricted-use chemicals they apply for two years.

USDA Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements:

(Private and Commercial applicators— (Restricted-use Pesticide use only)

Brand Name/Product Name

EPA Registration Number

Total Amount of Pesticide Used

Date of Application

Description/Location of Treated Area

Crop, Commodity or Stored Product

Size of Area Treated

Name of Certified Applicator

Certification Number

Active Ingredients

Restricted Entry Interval (REI)

WPS Recordkeeping Requirements:

(Farmers, Foresters, Greenhouse and Nursery operators — General-use and restricted-use pesticides)

Location & Crop/Commodity Treated

Brand Name

EPA Registration Number

Active Ingredients of Pesticide Applied

Month, Day, Year & time of Application

Restricted Entry Interval (REI)

Commercial Applicator Recordkeeping Requirements:

(General-use and Restricted-use Pesticides)

Applicator Name(s) & TDA-Assigned ID Number

Pesticide Used

Target Pest

Crop, Plant, House, Business, or Building the Pesticide is Applied on or to and the Location thereof; including the Physical Address or Farm Services Agency number

Application Rate

Percentage of Mixed-use Dilution

Landowner, agent or Other Person Employing such Applicator

Date of Service

Amount of Pesticide Used

Plant & Pest Diagnostic Highlights

By Bruce Kauffman

We received 111 samples from January 1 through March 25, 2008 including 55 samples via the UT Diagnostic Web Site.

FRUIT and VEGETABLES :

Botryosphaeria canker, sooty mold from insect honeydew, lichens and sphaeropsis canker on apple twigs; cold injury of strawberry root crowns; cladosporium leaf spot of greenhouse tomatoes; drought twig dieback of two year-old pear.

FORAGE:

Endophytic fungus (*Acromonium* sp.) and horse grazing in fescue pasture.

TOBACCO AND FIELD CROPS :

Confused flour beetle and rice weevil feeding on shelled corn; glyphosate damage of wheat and rye.

INSECTS , CRUSTACEANS, and MITES :

Cottony cushion scale on 'Little Gem' magnolia; polyphemus moth cocoon on oak leaf; suspected thrips (*Gynaikothrips uzeli*) on weeping fig; white springtails (Family Onychiuridae) infesting worm bed; whitefringed beetle larvae and/or white grubs (green June beetle or Japanese beetle) damage of sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes; wireworm damage to Irish potatoes.

Insects in and around the house:

Bed bug; clover mites; termite workers and reproductives; millipedes; midges; humpbacked flies; springtails (possibly *Orchesella* sp. and others); formicid ant and other ants; painted hickory borer emerging from hardwood firewood; crane fly larvae (possibly *Tipula trivittata*) on sidewalk; possible American cockroach; dark-winged fungus gnats; wolf spider; parasitic wasp (possibly *Opius* sp.); green lacewing; drugstore beetle; potter wasps, digger bees; carpet beetle (possibly varied carpet beetle).

TURF :

Pink snow mold, phosphorus deficiency, bermuda decline disease (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*) and brown patch of bermudagrass; drought stress of centipedegrass with possible secondary fungi.

ORNAMENTAL:

Woodpecker damage of sugar maple with sooty mold growing on the bark; phyllosticta leaf spot, high pH, poor drainage, low iron in soil, and last year's azalea caterpillar and flatid planthopper damage of azalea; bark peeling normally and bad branch union of zelkova; procerum root disease, drought death of root system, tree decline of eastern white pine; powdery mildew, low calcium, low phosphorus and low soluble salts of *Phlox paniculata* and *P. pilosa* and bacterial infection (*Corynebacterium* sp. and *Clavibacter* sp.) of *Phlox glaberrima*; possible hydrogen chloride damage from pool cleaning spray and anthracnose (*Gloeosporium* sp.) leaf blight of English cherry laurel; fungal shot hole disease of Carolina cherry laurel; mechanical damage and normal leaf senescence of magnolia; abnormal bark formation due to environmental stress of 'October Glory' red maple; last year's flatheaded borer damage of red maple cultivar; lichens, macrophoma twig and leaf blight, winter injury, leaf miners, twig splits from last April's freeze, drought stress, nematodes, root rot, phomopsis twig canker, volutella twig disease, possible phytophthora root rot, edema and mite damage of boxwood; spruce spider mites, juniper scale, drought-caused dieback of roots, phomopsis branch canker, root decline due to planting shock, and seiridium canker of Leyland cypress; cladosporium twig dieback, phoma twig blight and needle tip burn from last year's drought on arborvitae; anthracnose leaf spot, spider mites and high potassium and phosphorus levels of potted palm; alternaria leaf spot, pH and nutrient-related chlorosis and possible phytophthora root rot of Foster holly; chalara root rot, mechanical damage and possible phymatotrichum (cotton) root rot of elm; dog stinkhorn and artillery fungus in mulch; stem canker and wetwood bacterial infection (*Corynebacterium* sp. and *Pseudomonas* sp.) of dogwood; chestnut blight stem canker and basal wounds with wood decay of post oak; possible drought-caused root dieback of fir; possible shot hole borer damage of pear; anthracnose (*Gloeosporium* sp.) leaf spot, ascochyta and pestalotia leaf spots, phomopsis twig dieback and armored scale of rhododendron; pine sawyers (long-horned borers) and Ips bark beetles of loblolly pine; flatheaded borers and Ips bark beetles on Virginia pine; anthracnose (*Colletotrichum* sp.) and diplodia leaf spots and full sunlight dieback of English ivy; spider mites on root bound schefflera; high soluble salts and fungus gnats of rudbeckia and coral bells; lichen on yew and river birch; drought tip dieback of eastern redcedar; mechanical damage (pruning injury ?) to yew.

OTHER UT NEWSLETTERS WITH PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Fruit Pest News

<http://web.utk.edu/~extepp/fpn/fpn.htm>

Tennessee Crop and Pest Management Newsletter

http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm

Ornamental Pest and Disease Update

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/ornamentalnwsltr.html>

Tennessee Soybean Rust Hotline - 877-875-2326

USDA Soybean Rust Web Site

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

This and other "What's Happening" issues can be found at

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/whatshap.htm>

Entomology and Plant Pathology Web Site

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu>

Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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