THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE Extension

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY—-EPP#60

Corn Insect FAQs: Why and When

By: Russ Patrick

What insect do I need to be concerned about at this time? Black cutworms are and will be a problem especially on newly emerging corn plants.

Black cutworm Larva attacking corn plant.

What other insect will be a problem causing damage to corn? Flea beetles can cause corn to become stunted if left untreated. However, any seed treated with an insecticide should protect the corn from damaging populations.

Flea Beetle

Will an insecticide applied at burn down or planting help reduce cutworm damage? Certainly, if the larvae are present, this application will be of great value. If it rain comes within a hour after application will it reduce control? It is possible if the insecticide has not had time to dry. The greater time between application and rainfall the better.

Which insecticide should I use for cutworms? Any of the synthetic pyrethroid compounds will be very effective. Remember that any application will be greatly diminished within 4 to 6 weeks. This is also true for seed treatments or foliar applications.

Just remember that cool, wet conditions are favorable for cutworms and also allow flea beetles to damage corn that is not growing at a normal rate.

Inside this issue:

Corn: FAQs: What to Know

By Russ Patrick

Black cutworm larva

How do I know when to treat for cutworms in my corn? Scouting is the more perfect method to determine the percent damage. We allow 2% cut plants when living larvae are present. Larger worms can cause more damage to the plants by cutting them off at the base of the plant. Check 10 spots per 25 acres and count the number of damaged plants and if living larvae are present. You can get a close percentile of the amount of damage.

Cutworms can damage plants up to 2 feet in height or even larger. I have seen plants that the cutworm bored into that were 3 feet tall. Just because the corn gets a certain height does not mean that it may not be immune from cutworm damage.

"Are Armyworms causing problems in Kentucky?"

Wheat

By Russ Patrick

Armyworms are causing problems in Kentucky. Trap catches in Kentucky have been from 250 to 600 moths per week. Thus far, we are lucky or the moths were not in the area where we have traps. Look closely for larvae in wheat fields. They can certainly ruin a crop of wheat if high numbers of larvae exist and you are unaware. Pastures: Two new products are labeled for armyworms in pastures: Intrepid from Dow and Hero from FMC. You can look up the labels on the internet at their respective Web sites.

Cicadas are Emerging Now: Brood XIV of the 17-year Periodical Cicada

By Frank Hale

This brood has a widespread distribution across the state, especially East Tennessee. Cicada emergence was reported in Cocke County on Thursday May 8. For more info see UT SP 341 -F Periodical Cicadas at http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/spfiles/Sp341-F.pdf

Periodical cicada (this is an image of a 13-year periodical cicada)

New Soybean Rust Host Confirmed

By Beth Long

Coralbean

Soybean rust was confirmed by the USDA on a new host, *Erythrina herbacea*, commonly called coral bean, coralbean, or Cherokee bean, collected in Marion County, Florida. This plant is hardy in USDA zones 8-10, where it is a showy 3 ft. semi-herbaceous member of the bean (Leguminosae/Fabaceae) family. Coral bean can overwinter in southern Florida and other frost free areas.

If you know of any coral bean being grown in Tennessee, please let Mel Newman or Beth Long know.

Soybean Rust Current Status

By Beth Long

Soybean rust can currently be found on kudzu in six counties in Florida and one county in Texas. Soybean sentinel plots are being established throughout the southeast. Kudzu is also greening-up rapidly. Weather conditions are currently favorable for rust to develop in the gulf coast states due to incoming rain fronts but there have been no new reports of the disease in the region. Scouting efforts have intensified in the south as soybean sentinel plots continue to be planted and monitored.

The seven Tennessee counties that were positive for soybean rust in late fall of 2007 were: Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Lauderdale, Madison, Obion and Weakley counties. Soybean rust spores are not known to be able to survive the winter in Tennessee, so it is expected that rust will have to reinfect susceptible plants this year with wind blown spores from the south in order for us to have disease problems.

Soybean Rust Updates can be found at the USDA Soybean Rust web site: http://www.sbrusa.net or call the Tennessee Soybean Rust HOTLINE at 1-877-875-2326 for the current disease status. The hotline is updated every Monday by 12 noon CST after the National Soybean Rust conference call.

Apprentice Termite Technician School

By Karen Vail

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture in cooperation with industry representatives and the University of Tennessee Extension faculty has prepared a comprehensive course designed for the beginner, or more experienced pest management professional needing a refresher course, in structural pest control with an emphasis on termite treatments. This three-day class includes indoor classroom and outdoor hands-on instruction.

Indoor classroom instruction includes interactive discussions on

- laws and regulations,
- biology of termites and other wood-destroying insects and their damage,
- construction and its relation to termite infestations,
- termite treatments which includes math and calculations (so bring a calculator!),
- tools and equipment for wood, soil and bait treatments,
- inspections, and
- pesticide labels and safety.

The outdoor facility contains structural foundations in various stages of completion. Outdoor demonstrations are provided on

- tools and equipment for wood, soil and bait treatments,
- environmental concerns,
- calibration and trenching,
- treatment techniques, and
- pesticide safety.

Seventeen points will be awarded in category 7 (industrial, institutional, structural, and health related pest control), 10 (demonstration, research and regulatory pest control) and 12 (pesticide dealers) for participating in the training. Registration is $125 per person and should be received by June 6th, 2008. Training will be offered June 10 to June 12th, 2008 at the UT Extension Central Region Office located at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville. Pick up your 3-inch binder of classroom materials promptly at 8:30 am on June 10th. Availability is limited and acceptance will be based on a first come-first serve basis.

A registration form can be found at http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/personnel/Vail/Teaching.htm

Tobacco for Export

By Darrell Hensley

The Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service (APHIS) agreements that pertain to U.S. tobacco exports to China have changed. China no longer requires the phytosanitary lab testing for Tobacco Blue Mold. However, requirements for the collection of field sampling will operate the same as last season. It is very important that all parties who have an interest in certifying tobacco for export to China follow the same procedures.

County extension personnel should follow the guidelines listed below. Send samples for lab analysis only if you are certain blue mold is present in your county and present on samples you are submitting. Only one sample (multiple leaves) per county is needed.

Send samples to:

Burley Stabilization Corporation

Charlie Finch

P.O. Box 6447

Knoxville, TN 37914

Phone (865) 525-9381

Please include the following information on samples submitted to Burley Stabilization Corp.

Date sampled, sample ID number, nearest town, county, state, field location description, GPS location if known, Grower name, address and phone, County agent contact information, type of tobacco (burley, dark, etc.)

New Federal Registrations

By Gene Burgess

The following is a list of new federal registrations and their uses:

Insecticides

Intrepid (methoxfenzide) -- control of insects belonging to the diacylhdrazine class. (Dow AgroSciences LLC)
Steward EC (indoxacarb) -- foliar spray to control insects. (Dupont)
Midash Forte (imidacloprid) -- for protection of cotton and pecans from various insects. (Sharda USA LLC)

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Herbicides & Plant Growth Regulators

Weed & Grass Preventer w/5% Trammel (Trifluran) -- control annual grasses & broadleaf weeds. (Anderson)
Facet 75 DF (quinclorac) -- weed control in dry-seeded & water-seeded rice planting production. (Basf Corp)
Report Extra (chlorosulfuron) -- weed control in winter and spring wheat. (Cheminova Inc)
Cotoran 4L (flupmeturon) -- for weed control in cotton. (Makhteshim)
Metri 4F -- for control of certain grasses and broadleaf weeds. (United Phosphorus)

Fungicides, Rodenticides, & Other Pesticides

Fulex Nicotine Fumigator (nicotine) -- for use only in greenhouses on ornamental plants. (United Phosphorus)
Primeraone 4.5 (thiophanate-methyl) -- spectrum fungicide for turf and ornamentals. (United Phosphorus)
Stellar (fluopicolide) -- turf fungicide for control of pythium disease. (Valent USA Corp)

Note: Taken from TDA Registration Review

New Section 24C Special Local Need Registrations in Tennessee

By Gene Burgess

Dual Magnum (S-Metolachlor) – for control of weeds in spinach. (Sygenta)

Temprano (avermectin) – for control of spider mites on cotton (Chemtura Corporation)

Manzate Proi-Stick Fungicide (mancozeb) – for control of diseases in tobacco (Dupont)

Plant and Pest Diagnostic Highlights

By Bruce Kauffman

We received 66 samples from April 24 to May 6, 2008 including 28 samples via the UT Diagnostic Web Site.

FIELD CROPS :

Pythium root rot of tobacco.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES :

Peach leaf curl disease (*Taphrina*); botryosphaeria and/or phomopsis canker of blueberry branches; leaf spot of 'Top Gun' watermelon; cold temperature damage to cucumber.

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INSECTS, CRUSTACEANS, and MITES :

Imported fire ant on golf course; cutworms on tomatoes; possible centipede eggs in flower bed; last year's lace bug damage on rhododendron; woolsower gall damage by gall wasp on white oak twig; bristly roseslug feeding on rose leaves; aphids on day lilies; termites feeding on tree roots; possible fall and spring cankerworm feeding on pin oak; last year's sassafras weevil damage to southern magnolia leaves; ostracods (possibly Cyridopsis) feeding on blue-green algae and bacteria in pond; oak lecanium scale and septobasidium fungal growth over the scale on water oak.; spruce spider mites of arborvitae; leafminer on boxwood.

Insects in and around the home :

Possible Xylotrechus long-horned borers; saw-toothed grain beetles; carpet beetles; dust mite; dark winged fungus gnats; spined soldier bug nymphs; crane flies.

ORNAMENTALS & TREES :

Phytophthora crown and root rot of gardenia and coleus; volutella leaf and stem blight of pachysandra; frost damage of forsythia; frost and/or botrytis blight and suspected rose rosette disease of rose; root dieback due to over watering or under watering of hemlock; April 2007 frost damage and fusarium twig blight of boxwood; leaf tip dieback due to 2007 hot, dry weather and alternaria leaf blight of arborvitae; leaf collapse of African violets caused by possible overfertilization and/or pH in addition to chlorine and fluorine excesses in water; anthracnose causing leaf and branch blight of ligustrum; anthracnose leaf spot and phytophthora stem canker of sugar maple; branch dieback due to drought stress and botryosphaeria and/or phomopsis canker of Leyland cypress; leaves damaged by frost and possible phyllosticta leaf spot on southern magnolia; decline of Bradford pear planted too deeply in combination with drought stress; decay of willow too deeply planted; phomopsis canker, iron deficiency and/or high pH and water-logged, poorly-aerated soil of azaleas; botryosphaeria canker of redbud branches; April 2007 freeze damage to ginkgo trunk; coniothyrium, phomopsis, and sphaeropsis twig cankers, shot hole leaf spot disease and drought-caused twig dieback of English laurel; decline of silver maple due to 2007 drought; leaf and twig drought dieback in combination with pestalotiopsis twig blight on arborvitae; older leaf yellowing and drop of 'Nellie R. Stevens' holly, American boxwood and yew; phoma twig blight of dogwood; phoma and pestalotiopsis needle blight of juniper; drought- and freeze-caused twig dieback of 'Helleri' holly; possible leucostoma canker of ornamental cherry.

SMALL GRAINS :

Septoria leaf blotch of wheat.

TURF :

Reduced vigor of zoysiagrass due to soil compaction, low pH, high phosphorus and potassium and a root decline fungus(*Gaeumannomyces*); older leaf death of 'A1' bentgrass caused by potassium deficiency and blue-green algae; purple-colored sunken patches of Tifeagle bermudagrass due to a 2 inch thick organic mat and infection by root decline and spring dead spot fungi (*Gaeumannomyces, Ophiosphaerella*); large dead spots caused by soil drainage and soil compaction problems of Eagle Potato Chip bermudagrass.

Visit the UT Extension Web site at
http://www.utextension.utk.edu

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 ennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.