

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Volume 25, Issue 3

May 1, 2009

ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT
PATHOLOGY—EPP#60

Stored Grain

By Russ Patrick

What not to do:

Do not store grain above the last ring on the bin. If you do, you need to thoroughly inspect it for problems. Do not over fill in the bin.

Some things to do:

Check for temperature and moisture content, especially if you have grain stored at this time of year.



Grains need to be leveled



Moisture and temperature meter

Remember, Diacon II and Storcide II insecticides that can be used on wheat:

Crop spray can be mixed with any of these materials. Treat the grain, especially if you are putting it in the baggies. After bags are filled there are no good methods of treatment, not even if the grain was aerated. Once sealed you may only take grain temperature and moisture readings by using a grain probe.

URL's for labels of Diacon II, Storcide II, and Crop-spray were placed in the previous issue of "What's Happening" for reference purposes. Please read the label, prior to purchase and/or use of any pesticide.

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U.S. and Canada to Increase Scrutiny of Flea and Tick Pet Products

By Gene Burgess

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for pets due to recent increases in the number of reported incidents. Adverse reactions reported range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and in some cases, the death of pets.

Flea and tick products can be appropriate treatments for protecting your pets and your family's health because fleas and ticks can transmit diseases. While many people use the products with no harm to their pets, EPA recommends that pet owners take precautions when using these products. People should carefully follow label directions and monitor their pets for any signs of an adverse reaction after application, particularly when using these products for the first time. Pet owners may also want to consult a veterinarian about the responsible and effective use of flea and tick products.

Incidents with flea and tick products can involve the use of spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of the incidents reported to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back. This advisory pertains only to EPA-registered spot-on flea and tick products.

Health Canada has identified similar concerns about the use of spot-on flea and tick products. Health Canada and EPA will meet shortly with spot-on product manufacturers to address the issue, including whether further restrictions are necessary to protect the health of pets.

EPA recommends that veterinarians use the National Pesticide Information Center's Veterinary Pesticide Adverse Effects Reporting portal to report incidents:

<http://npic.orst.edu/vet>

More information on pet products and safety tips may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/pets.htm>

EPA Pesticide Program Update 4/17/09

Stored Grain Workshops:

By Russ Patrick

We are planning to have two workshops for County Extension Personnel. The first one will be given for Cannon and Coffee Counties and second will be held in Crockett County. Both have been placed on SUPER. Dr Burgess has agreed to assign certification points for these workshops. You must sign up on SUPER in order to get the extra credit of the 32 hours. During the Crockett County workshop we will be in the field watching the grain baggers and demonstrating how the grain is treated prior to filling the bags.

Further details will be forthcoming as to the exact locations of each workshop. We will discuss fumigation, insect identification, grain bags, and metal grain bin clean up. There will be live insects to look at under the microscopes. Dr Kathy Flanders of Auburn University will be assisting me with both workshops. We will plan for other workshops when corn is being harvested. These first workshops will be wheat storage only. We will be discussing treatment methods and controls that may be used, as well as fumigation methods during these workshops.

Armyworms and Cutworms

By Russ Patrick

True armyworms are invading bermudagrass fields. Wheat may be next in line. Be sure to check your wheat for armyworms and corn for cutworms. I will be sending out notices of trap catches for both of these pests. I will be checking my traps to see if we have any catches.



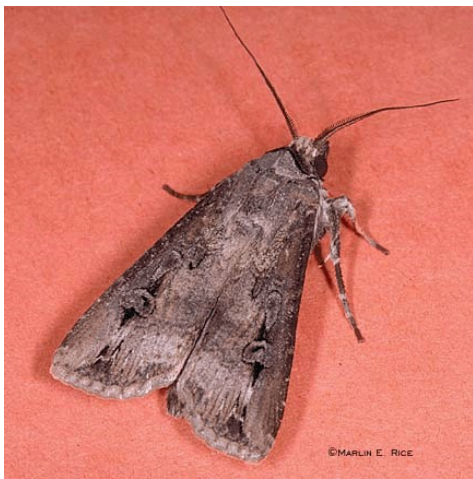
Armyworm larvae



Armyworm adult

Armyworms and Cutworms-Cont'd

Black cutworms have been reported in large numbers across the state. They are fully grown larvae, which leads me to believe they are the overwintering generation. Although, we have traps set to catch adult moths, it does not guarantee they will show up in traps. Black cutworms are dark grayish in color and can devastate a field of corn. We recommend treating when you have 2% cut plants and larvae are present. Most all of the pyrethroids will control cutworms. Mustang Max provides excellent control.



Black cutworm adult



Black cutworm larva



Cutworm

Di-Syston and Monitor Update

By Gene Burgess

Information has been from Bayer CropScience that they have decided to exit the Di-Syston insecticide and Monitor insecticide businesses in the United States.

Please note the following, effective immediately:

- **Monitor:** Bayer CropScience's final production of Monitor will occur in 2009. Distributors will be provided with an allocation based on previous purchase history.
- **Di-Syston 8** and **Di-Syston 15G:** Bayer CropScience's final production of Di-Syston 8 and Di-Syston 15G will occur in 2009. At this time, material will not be allocated and is available for purchase while supplies last.
- Once purchased from Bayer CropScience, there is no time limitation by which distributors are required to sell Di-Syston or Monitor to retailers or growers (EPA 1991 Existing Stock Policy.)
- Once purchased from distributors or retailers, there is no time limitation by which growers are required to use Di-Syston or Monitor (EPA 1991 Existing Stock Policy.)

Di-Syston and Monitor have been valuable pest management tools. Bayer CropScience has the following options as replacement alternatives:

- **Di-Syston 8:** Admire Pro, Baythroid XL, Belt, Larvin, Leverage, Movento, Oberon, Provado, Synapse and Trimax Pro may provide comparable solutions.
- **Di-Syston 15G:** For the Christmas tree market, Envidor and Movento are effective against a similar pest spectrum.
- **Monitor:** Admire Pro, Baythroid XL, Leverage, Movento, Provado and Trimax Pro may provide comparable solutions.

It looks like moving ashes in my yard, what is this pest? Springtails

By Karen Vail

In April, black springtails or snowfleas occurred in yards in large numbers. These insects were so numerous that the ground appeared to be covered in moving ash. According to the newest UTIA Distance Diagnostics system, a four-fold increase in springtails identifications occurred between 2007 and 2008. It appears the trend of increasing springtail incidences is likely to continue in 2009.

Springtails get their name from a forked structure, the furcula, attached to the underside of the abdomen which acts as a spring to project them into the air. This “jumping” behavior gives them the appearance of tiny fleas. Other than being a nuisance, these small creatures pose little threat.

Springtails eat decaying organic matter such as leaf litter, fungi, bacteria, pollen, etc. Springtails may become abundant among wet leaves, soil, and plant material along a house foundation or sidewalk where they can be a temporary annoyance. When conditions dry they should become less abundant. Any steps to improve ventilation and promote drying are the best long term solutions. Insecticides can be used to treat entry points into the structure, but this will not drastically reduce the number of springtails in an area because it only provides temporary relief if the favorable conditions are not corrected. In addition, insecticides are a least preferred option because pyrethroids, which are available to homeowners, appear to be less effective than the older insecticide chemistry of organophosphates and carbamates. Unfortunately most organophosphates and carbamates are no longer allowed to be used around structures. More details on springtails and their management can be found in the sources listed below.



Hypogasturids, black springtails or snowfleas, were present in large numbers around homes. These springtails were about 1 mm long.

Sources:

Anonymous. 2009. Snow Flea. http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/snow_flea.htm

Vail, K. 2008. Springtails. WHAT'S HAPPENING?" University of Tennessee Extension

Entomology & Plant Pathology. EPP #60Volume No. 24, Issue 8, 2008
<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2008/WHvol24issue8EPP779.pdf>

Will the Poor Economic Situation Increase the Number of Delusory/Illusory Parasitosis Cases?

By Karen Vail

We've recently experience a "rash" of inquiries that appear to be cases of delusory (DP) or more appropriately illusory (IP) parasitosis. Most were middle-aged women complaining about itching from an unseen insect, mite, or other very small organism. In one case, several family members were experiencing the same symptoms. The pest management professional relayed this information to support the fact that a "parasite" must be the cause. However, the power of suggestion (Bell's syndrome) was probably at work as scratching is a very contagious behavior. For cases where samples were submitted to our lab, we did not find any parasites. This was not unusual.

"Delusory parasitosis (DP) is a false, unshakable belief that tiny organisms, such as mites, fleas, or worms, live in or on the skin, or within the body" (Bione and Hinkle 2006, Hinkle 2000). Some of our cases appear to be illusory parasitosis which means that the individual will accept an explanation that the cause of itches is something other than insects or other parasites. Hinkle (2000) summarizes much of the literature pertaining to DP and lists common DP sufferers as elderly, female, depressed, or socially isolated. DP sufferers had attributes with a sensation of something walking on skin, itching, or biting; certain behaviors (quit job, burned furniture, abandoned home, obsessively cleaned, applied pesticide repeatedly to their environment or body, used home remedies or mutilated themselves to remove vermin, brought suspected specimens in many containers for identification, a lack of specimens even though many seen, described detailed life cycles of suspected pests, abandoned family to prevent infestation from spreading); emotional traumas ([recent death in family], lay-off, divorce or separation); numerous unhelpful doctor visits; a strong conviction that the situation is not psychological; and family members experiencing the same symptoms in about one-third of the cases.

Job loss is one of the emotional traumas that has been associated with DP sufferers. Have we noticed an increase in DP/IP cases with the economic downturn? Right now, we are experiencing the typical peak of DP/IP cases that occurs in April/May, so it is difficult to say. But be aware that this year may be worse then normal.



Examples of specimens submitted to the UT Urban IPM lab.
Fibers twisted around themselves or skin often resemble insects or mites.

Will the Poor Economic Situation Increase the Number of Delusory/Illusory Parasitosis Cases? - Cont'd

Specimens brought in for identification usually consist of fibers of various colors, bits of dead skin, hair, lint, and miscellaneous debris. The skin of the individual is often severely irritated and sometimes infected from desperate scratching, excessive bathing and application of ointments/insecticides. While these occurrences may seem bizarre to persons who are not affected, they are frighteningly real to the patient. Delusory parasitosis, as well as other suspected emotional or medical conditions, should be brought to the attention of a physician.

In the UT E&PP's "What's Happening" newsletter, volume 24, issue 13 (<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2008/WHvol24issue13EPP779.pdf>), I explain my approach to handling suspected DP/IP cases. For additional delusory parasitosis information, see the sources listed below.

Sources:

- Bione, S.E.D. and N. C. Hinkle. 2006. [Public Health Issue] Invisible Bugs. Pest Control Technology <http://www.pctonline.com/articles/article.asp?ID=2640>
- Hinkle, N.C. 2000. Delusory parasitosis. American Entomologist 46: 17-25.(This provides very thorough coverage of the subject).
- Potter, M. 1997. Invisible Itches: Insect and Non-Insect Causes by Mike Potter. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. (excerpted) <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ent/ent58/ent58.pdf>
- Potter, M.F and G. M. Beavers. 1995. Public Health Pest Management a Training Guide. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. (excerpted)
- Vail, K.M. 2006. "Rash" of Delusory/illusory Parasitosis Cases – Can Use of a TV Monitor in the Identification Process Help? "What's Happening?" University of Tennessee Extension, EPP #60 May 4, 2006. <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2006/Issue-3-2006.htm> .
- Vail, K.M. 2008. "Rash" of Delusory/illusory Parasitosis Cases. "What's Happening?" University of Tennessee Extension, EPP #60 July 25, 2008. <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2008/WHvol24issue13EPP779.pdf>
- Vail, K.M., G. Burgess, R. Gerhardt and C. Harper [eds.]. 2001. PB1673 General Pest and Rodent Control Pesticide Applicator Licensing Manual (GRC). pp. 130. University of Tennessee Extension <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/psep/secondlevel/thirdlevel/GRC/pdf/chapter05.pdf>.

Plant & Pest Diagnostic Highlights

By Bruce Kauffman

We received 71 samples from April 15 to April 27, 2009, including 34 samples via the UT Diagnostic Web Site.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES : Peach leaf curl fungal infection of peach; sun scorch of tomato leaves; gray mold (*Botrytis* sp) of potatoes in storage; pythium root rot of tomatoes.

INSECTS, CRUSTACEANS & MITES : armored scales on sugar maple; possible eastern tent caterpillar and/or fall cankerworm feeding of schip laurel; spruce spider mites on blue spruce; iris borer damage of iris; fungus gnats of marigolds, dahlias and sweet peas; white peach scales and/or borers of English laurel; one of the green fruitworms feeding on strawberry leaves; cutworms eating pepper plants and grass in large numbers; tree cricket eggs in wax myrtle twigs.

Insects and other pests around the home : flatheaded borers in firewood; cutworms (possibly black cutworms); termite reproductives; wheel bug; small carpenter ant; springtails; trap door spider; longhorned beetle (*Euderces picipes*); mason bees (possibly *Osmia* sp); bed bug; possible German cockroach nymph; varied carpet beetles; one of the tussock moth caterpillars; sac spider.

ORNAMENTALS & TREES : Possible winter damage of cross vine and Japanese cleyera; phytophthora root rot of 'Blue Pacific' juniper; low pH, volutella canker and root mortality of boxwood; botryosphaeria canker and wood decay of fothergillia; winter leaf browning and twig dieback of wax myrtle; site stress caused by low pH, low fertility and/ or over or under watering of boxwood; mechanical injury and pestalotia and phomopsis twig infections of Leyland cypress; woodpecker injury to hydrangea; decline and phomopsis twig dieback of sugar maple; phomopsis canker and environmental stress (2007 drought) of blue spruce; twig dieback due to possible storage damage of rose; seiridium or botryosphaeria canker and woodpecker damage of Leyland cypress; fire (heterosporium) leaf spot and bacterial soft rot of iris; low pH and fertility of marigolds, sweet peas and dahlias; sun scorch of Boston fern; downy mildew of pink 'Knockout' roses; winter burn and/or poor drainage of English laurel; black fungal leaf spot and suspected pine resin on holly leaves; fungal leaf spots and poorly-shaped 'Encore' azalea; spot anthracnose of dogwood flower bracts; drought -initiated decline of southern magnolia; shot hole disease, winter damage and overly wet site for laurel; site stress and gray leaf spot of rhododendron; lack of complete dormancy of 'Cherokee Princess' white dogwood seedlings; possible phytophthora root rot of willow seedlings; possible phomopsis twig canker of azalea; impatiens necrotic spot virus of nonstop pink begonia.

TURF & FORAGES : Weather-related decline of 'Mini verde' ultra-dwarf bermudagrass; pythium and Gaeumannomyces decline fungus of bermudagrass; possible soil compaction of zoysiagrass; possible root knot nematode injury of SR1020 bentgrass; superficial winter damage of 'Champion' bermudagrass; pythium foliage disease of 'Crenshaw' bentgrass; possible root knot or sting nematode damage and pythium foliage disease of bentgrass.

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PATHOLOGY—EPP#60

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>

School IPM Newsletter

<http://schoolipm.utk.edu>

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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