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First soybean aphids found in May

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First soybean aphids found in May

Abstract

Our first official sighting of soybean aphids occurred in soybeans on May 31 near Ames in Story County. Students in the Soybean Entomology Research Laboratory found several winged aphids and a few colonies on V3-stage soybeans. One colony had about 40 aphids, indicating that the aphids had probably been there for about a week. The following day, soybeans were inspected at McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Lucas County, and Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, Floyd County, but no soybean aphids were found in those research plots.

Keywords

Entomology

Disciplines

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grazing reduces seed stem growth, and promotes leafy regrowth. An important management step now is to clip off the emerged seed stems of fescue pastures. As the summer progresses, moving livestock to non-fescue forage sources is recommended.

The endophyte and alkaloid also may be present in fescue being harvested as hay. Research is showing that the concentration of the alkaloid will decline by about half during the hay-curing process, but it does not go away completely.

Fields can be sampled and tested for the endophyte. And, based on existing livestock problems and the degree of infection, fescue pastures can be managed by interseeding other forages, in an effort to dilute the alkaloid intake, or by complete stand renovation.

For more information, please contact me at 515-294-7835 or sbarnhar@iastate.edu.

Stephen K. Barnhart is a professor of agronomy with extension, teaching, and research responsibilities in forage production and management.



Insects and Mites

First soybean aphids found in May

by Marlin E. Rice and Matt O'Neal, Department of Entomology

Our first official sighting of soybean aphids occurred in soybeans on May 31 near Ames in Story County. Students in the Soybean Entomology Research Laboratory found several winged aphids and a few colonies on V3-stage soybeans. One colony had about 40 aphids, indicating that the aphids had probably been there for about a week. The following day, soybeans were inspected at McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Lucas County, and Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, Floyd County, but no soybean aphids were found in those research plots.

To put this in perspective, last year we found our first soybean aphids in Lucas County on June 1. However, the population in this field reached a peak of less than 250 aphids per plant, which is below the economic threshold. So an early arrival of aphids in soybeans does not forecast a looming disaster in July or August. Many factors, such as weather, soybean hybrid, and beneficial predators, will influence the development of aphid populations during the next two months. We will keep you updated on our findings and aphid populations around the state.



A winged soybean aphid. (Marlin E. Rice)

Marlin E. Rice is a professor of entomology with extension and research responsibilities in field and forage crops.

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