

7-30-2001

Painted ladies along the road

Marlin E. Rice

Iowa State University, merice@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews>



Part of the [Agricultural Science Commons](#), [Agriculture Commons](#), and the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rice, Marlin E., "Painted ladies along the road" (2001). *Integrated Crop Management News*. 1994.
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/1994>

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/>.

Painted ladies along the road

Abstract

The painted lady butterfly, also known as the thistle caterpillar, has completed its first generation on soybean in central Iowa. These butterflies are very common along some roadways in central Iowa where they sip on moisture in wet spots or mud puddles. There will be at least one more generation of this insect in Iowa soybean. The butterflies are long-distance flyers so predicting where females will lay their eggs for the next generation is impossible. Thistle caterpillars construct webs in upper soybean leaves, tying the leaves together with silk, and feed inside this protective nest.

Keywords

Entomology

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Entomology

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT

Painted ladies along the road

The painted lady butterfly, also known as the thistle caterpillar, has completed its first generation on soybean in central Iowa. These butterflies are very common along some roadways in central Iowa where they sip on moisture in wet spots or mud puddles. There will be at least one more generation of this insect in Iowa soybean. The butterflies are long-distance flyers so predicting where females will lay their eggs for the next generation is impossible. Thistle caterpillars construct webs in upper soybean leaves, tying the leaves together with silk, and feed inside this protective nest. There they consume approximately 40 square inches of soybean leaves, causing 97 percent of the leaf removal during the last two larval stages (when larvae are 3/4 to 1 1/4 inch in length). An economic threshold in blooming soybean is 20 percent defoliation, but it is unlikely that thistle caterpillars will cause this much leaf injury.

This article originally appeared on page 159 of the IC-486(20) -- July 30, 2001 issue.

Source URL:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm//ipm/icm/2001/7-30-2001/paintedladies.html>

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension