New Soybean Pest in Iowa: Soybean Gall Midge

Erin W. Hodgson
Iowa State University, ewh@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews
Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, and the Agriculture Commons

Recommended Citation
https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/2485

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 Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user.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/.
New Soybean Pest in Iowa: Soybean Gall Midge

Abstract
In 2016 and 2017, there were isolated reports of soybean injury by soybean gall midge in northwest Iowa. Confirmations were reported in 2011 from Nebraska and in 2015 from South Dakota. In 2018, the distribution in Iowa has spread to twelve Iowa counties (Figure 1). This article hopes to raise awareness about a new soybean pest and confirm any additional infested Iowa counties.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture

This article is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/2485
New Soybean Pest in Iowa: Soybean Gall Midge

July 31, 2018

In 2016 and 2017, there were isolated reports of soybean injury by soybean gall midge in northwest Iowa. Confirmations were reported in 2011 from Nebraska and in 2015 from South Dakota. In 2018, the distribution in Iowa has spread to twelve Iowa counties (Figure 1). This article hopes to raise awareness about a new soybean pest and confirm any additional infested Iowa counties.

Figure 1. Confirmations of soybean gall midge in 2018 indicated by Iowa counties in orange.

Much is unknown about the soybean gall midge. Entomologists cannot even confirm the species at this point (we are working on it!). Here are some details about the biology and plant injury we have observed so far:
• Injury is most severe at field edges; this possibly indicates adults fly to new soybean fields the following growing season.
• Larval feeding and plant injury is usually restricted to the base of the plant (Photo 1).

Photo 1. Spilling open soybean stems will reveal midge larvae including decaying plant tissue. Photo by Ryan Rusk.

• Many midges can infest a single plant (Photo 2).

Photo 2. Soybean gall midge larvae are clear and eventually turn bright orange as they mature.
- Vegetative and reproductive plants can be infested.
- Initially, infested stems look swollen (Photo 3), eventually turn brown (Photo 4) and break off resulting in plant death.

Photo 3. Look for discolored, swollen soybean stems near the soil line.
In some cases, plants were infected with a fungal disease. But this wasn’t always true as we were able to collect infested plants that did not have any fungal infection present.

Cultural control practices did not seem to make a difference, including variety selection, time of planting, row spacing, tillage or manure application.

Insecticidal seed treatments did not appear to effectively suppress the midges.

We are assuming the soybean gall midge can complete at least two generations in Iowa, but we do not know how long a generation takes to develop. We also assume it can overwinter in Iowa and does so as a pupa in the soil or leaf litter similar to other midges.

Midges are a fly in the Cecidomyiidae family. There are about 6,000 midges worldwide and at least 1,100 species in North America. Midges are small (2-3 mm), have long antennae and unusually hairy wings. Most midges are fragile and weak fliers. Many
midges are considered economically important plant pests (e.g., Hessian fly, sunflower midge, wheat blossom midge); however, some are predatory on aphids and mites. The maggots are not mobile and must be located on or near the host plant to survive. Many midges larvae feed within the host plant tissue, creating abnormal growths called galls.

If you see these midges infesting a soybean field in Iowa, please let me know via email (ewh@iastate.edu) or Twitter (@erinwhodgson)!

Links to this article are strongly encouraged, and this article may be republished without further permission if published as written and if credit is given to the author, Integrated Crop Management News, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. If this article is to be used in any other manner, permission from the author is required. This article was originally published on July 31, 2018. The information contained within may not be the most current and accurate depending on when it is accessed.

Category:  Crop Production  Insects and Mites

Crop:  Soybean

Tags:  midge  pest  fly  IPM  scouting

Author:  Erin Hodgson  Associate Professor

Dr. Erin Hodgson started working in the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University in 2009. She is an associate professor with extension and research responsibilities in corn and soybeans. She has a general background in integrated pest management (IPM) for field crops. Dr. Hodgson’s curre...