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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 92-11] [July 3,1992]

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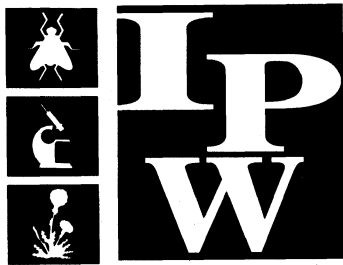
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Insect Science

Alfalfa weevils still causing problems

A number of alfalfa growers in eastern Nebraska are still experiencing problems with alfalfa weevils. Two distinct situations seem to be developing. One involves an unusual phenomenon: alfalfa weevil larvae are still feeding in some fields at this late date. One field near Arlington had larvae present on the first crop which was cut in mid-May. Insecticide was applied in late May to control weevil adults and to allow regrowth to occur. On June 19, larvae were numerous in this same

field. Other such cases have been reported this season.

We are not sure whether this is a second generation of weevils or if these larvae are the result of a delayed hatch of eggs laid last spring. There is evidence that both situations have occurred in the past and some parts of the United States have experienced two generations of weevils in recent years. If you think this is happening in fields you are familiar with, we would appreciate knowing about it. We will keep you informed as we learn anything new.

The other situation is the delaying of regrowth by adult

alfalfa weevils (and clover leaf weevil adults) after cutting. These problems are becoming common in eastern Nebraska in recent years and growers should be aware of the threat.

The lesson from this is that alfalfa growers must regularly scout their fields for pest problems and be on the lookout for unusual happenings. Insects are dynamic animals and their behavior does not always follow what the book says they will do. Be prepared to react when your crop is threatened.

Steve Danielson
Extension Entomologist

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Crop pest update

European corn borer infestations continue to be light in most corn fields across the state and little treatment has been necessary.

Corn rootworm larvae are now in the second and third instars statewide. Some fields have relatively heavy infestations, particularly if they are in continuous corn, rootworm beetle populations were high last season, and no controls were implemented previously. Some pupation has been observed in south central fields.

Potato leafhopper damage is now fairly common in eastern Nebraska alfalfa fields, especially those that were seeded last fall or spring.

Thistle caterpillars were observed in a soybean field in northeast Nebraska, however, the damage potential did not justify control measures.

Steve Danielson
Extension Entomologist



EPA accepts voluntary label changes for atrazine

Atrazine, used primarily in corn and sorghum, is one of the most widely used pesticides in the United States. It is also the most widely detected pesticide in water monitoring studies in the Midwest corn belt.

On April 10, EPA announced that it had accepted a proposal by the Ciba-Geigy Corporation aimed at reducing atrazine contamination of surface water, particularly in drinking water. The company is changing its label and adding water monitoring and educational initiatives on the pesticides. The restrictions becomes effective for the 1993 crop season. Some of the more pertinent label restrictions include:

- ◆ Deletion of noncrop uses, including rights of way, highways and railroads.

- ◆ Reduction in the application rates for corn and sorghum from 3 pounds per acre to 1.6 to 2.5 pounds per acre.

- ◆ No ground or aerial application within 200 feet around all natural or impounded waters (reservoirs and lakes) and within 66 feet of points where field surface runoff water enters perennial or intermittent streams and rivers (on highly erodible land, the 66-foot setback must be vegetated).

- ◆ All mixing and loading operations must have 50-foot setbacks from intermittent streams, rivers, reservoirs, impounded and natural lakes, and all wells, including drainable wells, abandoned wells, and sink holes.

Larry Schulze
Extension Pesticide Coordinator

Chinch bugs moving into sorghum and corn

As the wheat in eastern Nebraska matures and becomes a less suitable host, chinch bugs are beginning to move in large numbers to more suitable nearby grassy hosts. The most likely new victims are sorghum and corn fields near the wheat fields. Most of the migrating chinch bugs are young nymphs that are orange or red and very small. They cannot fly like adults and will not be able to survive long without feeding on a grassy host.

Growers should be prepared to apply insecticides to protect sorghum and corn in areas where the migration is occurring. Suggested insecticides are carbaryl (Sevin XLR), carbofuran (Furadan 4F), and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E).

Apply these products with as much water as possible (e.g. 20 to 40 gallons per acre) and with sprays directed at the lower portions of the plants where contact with chinch bugs is most likely. Best results have been achieved when applications were made during the cooler times of the day, such as morning and evening. Multiple applications may be necessary to protect the crops because the migration usually occurs over an extended time and the insecticides provide control for only a few days. Also, control with these insecticides is not 100% and retreatment is often necessary to reduce the numbers of chinch bugs surviving earlier treatments.

Steve Danielson
Extension Entomology



Insect Science Plant Disease Weed Science News

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Lisa Brown Jasa, Editor

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Weed Science

Idle acres offer good potential for weed control

If left unattended, idle acres can turn into a real weed problem next year. Ideal growing conditions coupled with no tillage on Acreage Conservation Reserve (ACR) acres make excellent control of perennial weeds possible.

Controlling perennial weeds successfully with herbicides depends on having the right growing conditions and chemical application at the right growth stage.

Weed management on CRP acres a wise investment

Weed control on CRP acres is often neglected leading to serious future problems. View weed management on CRP land as an investment in the future productivity of the land. Left unchecked, several perennial weeds including Canada thistle and leafy spurge can become well established and pose a real problem when the land is later returned to production.

The forage grasses on ungrazed CRP land provide real competition to weeds. This competition coupled with a herbicide treatment will provide greater weed control than either one alone. Herbicides useful for perennial broadleaf weed control on CRP land include 2,4-D, Banvel, Curtail and Tordon. Exercise caution when using 2,4-D ester and Banvel near sensitive plants during hot weather.

Alex Martin
Extension Weeds Specialist

The flower bud through flowering stages are ideal for treating perennial weeds with 2,4-D, Banvel, and Roundup. Canada thistle, field bindweed, hemp dogbane, and common milkweed on undisturbed sites are at or approaching these growth stages. Swamp smartweed will reach ideal treatment stage later. ACR acres are an opportunity to deal with these weeds without involving a crop. Apply 1.5 quarts 2,4-D ester

(4 lb/gallon) or 1 quart 2,4-D + Banvel. Where annual grass and broadleaf weeds are a problem, Landmaster, a combination of Roundup and 2,4-D amine is effective. Use caution when applying herbicides to minimize the chance of spray drift damaging nearby vegetation. When temperatures exceed 85°F, 2,4-D ester and Banvel can produce vapors that drift and damage sensitive broadleaf plants.

Alex Martin
Extension Weeds Specialist

New recordkeeping proposed for private pesticide applicators

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA is proposing to amend its regulations for recordkeeping by certified applicators of federally restricted use pesticides. The records are needed to form a data base for agronomic and environmental surveys by State and Federal agencies and for annual reporting to Congress by the USDA and the EPA on the use of agricultural and nonagricultural federally restricted use pesticides. The proposed regulations include provisions for protecting the identity of individual producers in such reports and do not include any requirement for reporting by certified applicators, unless requested to do so by an official.

The proposed regulations would require all certified applicators to keep the following records on restricted use pesticides for two years after application:

1. The brand or product name, formulation, and the EPA registration number of the restricted use pesticide that was applied.
2. The total amount and the rate of application.
3. The address or location, the size of area treated, the target pest, and the crop, commodity, or stored product to which a restricted use pesticide was applied.
4. The month, day, and year on which the restricted use pesticide application occurred.
5. The name, address, and certification number of the certified applicator who applied or supervised the application.

The proposed regulations would require a commercial

(Continued on page 4)

Recordkeeping

(Continued from page 3)

applicator of restricted use pesticides to provide a copy of the records required to be maintained under this proposal to the person for whom such an application was made within 30 days of the application of the restricted use pesticide.

The USDA is encouraging comments on any or all of the proposed regulations. In particular, it is encouraging comments on how best to report and measure the size of an area treated with restricted use pesticides.

For a copy of the entire Federal Register notice, contact the University of Nebraska Lincoln Cooperative Extension, Environmental Programs Office, 101 Natural Resources Hall, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583-0818.

The USDA needs to receive comments on the proposal by Aug. 10. Send comments to Dr. Alan Post, Docket Manager, USDA-AMS, Science Division, P.O. Box 96456, Room 3522-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

Larry Schulze
Extension Pesticide Coordinator

Leafy Spurge Meeting

The Annual Leafy Spurge Symposium will be held July 22-24 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. This annual event for researchers, regulatory personnel, land managers and producers focuses on leafy spurge control and the latest research on it. For more information contact Robert Masters at (402) 472-1546.

Alex Martin
Extension Weeds Specialist

Plant Disease

Inspect sugar beets now for nematode damage

The sugar beet crop in western Nebraska got off to a hectic start this year. First, it was very dry at the time most sugar beets were planted. Few seedlings emerged before the soil was completely dry at seed depth. The seeds remained there for six to eight weeks before rains brought enough moisture to complete seedling emergence. Soil temperatures were above average for the time young plants were developing. The warmer soil temperatures enhanced the aggressiveness of the sugar beet nematode; at that time plants were young and were more severely injured by nematode invasion.

Correction

Note the following correction to the June 26 article *Soft rot damage more widespread than indicated in earlier reports*, on pages 1 and 3.

The top rot (whorl rot) type is most often occurring following frost or hail damage or in those plants where the whorl was unable to push out of the buggy whip condition. Crown and/or growing point rot usually appears to be associated with hail damage to the lower stalk area. However, in some cases the growing point has been invaded by movement of the bacteria downward from the top rot; in other cases, the growing point has been invaded by upward movement from the crown or root systems.

Ben Douplik, Jr.
Extension Plant Pathologist
South Central REC, Clay Center

Under those circumstances nematode infection is severe where inoculum levels were moderate to high. Field plot studies indicated high infection levels for both the sugar beet nematode (a cyst-forming nematode) and the false root-knot nematode. Infection severity may be greater than expected in fields with low inoculum levels where a nematicide would not normally be used. Furthermore, there are large acreages of sugar beets where rain, when it did arrive, was heavy. Large quantities of water sometimes moved the more soluble nematicides down below the level of young seedling roots. Later hailstorms further set back crop growth, providing even more chance for elevated nematode injury.

Examine sugar beets now for nematode infection. Only initial infection will be visible. Later in July and August, second generation cyst nematode infection normally occurs and it will be impossible to evaluate the extent of initial infection. Look for the tiny white females of the cyst nematode clinging to roots, and look for swollen galls on roots infected with the false root-knot nematode. It is too late for chemical treatments but the crop will need all the care that is practical to get the most growth out of infected plants.

Eric Kerr
Extension Plant Pathologist
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