

Partnership Perk



August 8, 2006

Late-Summer Soybean Insect Issues

- 1) Soybean aphid populations in most of Iowa are very low and below the treatment threshold as of the first week of August. Considering the recent hot weather and the current developmental stage of soybeans, rapid aphid population growth may not occur this season. Scouting for aphids now is critical for economic and efficient control.
- 2) Spider mites are being reported at damaging levels in parts of Iowa and Minnesota. Dry conditions exacerbate mite populations, resulting in numbers that can reduce soybean yields and sometimes kill plants. Scout fields now for spider mites to determine if insecticide applications are warranted.
- 3) Second generation bean leaf beetles are currently emerging. Scouting for this insect is necessary now. Special attention should be given to seed bean fields and food-grade soybeans, which are higher valued and more sensitive to secondary damage from bean pod mottle virus that is transmitted by the beetle.
- 4) Be aware of the Pre Harvest Interval (PHI) for any insecticide applied in August, especially with early planted soybeans that will reach harvest maturity by the end of August. Also, the combination of spider mites and soybean aphids makes for a tricky situation. Pyrethroids are not effective against spider mites, instead killing their natural enemies and often increasing their populations faster than if the plants were left untreated. Product comparisons by ISU entomologist Matt O'Neal have shown that both pyrethroids and organophosphates are effective against soybean aphids. So consider using an organophosphate (Lorsban, dimethoate) if necessary for your August insect pest problems to avoid flare ups of spider mites.

Long Story Short: Scouting soybeans now, coupled with wise choice of insecticide materials when needed, is critical.

Source: Matt O'Neal and Marlin E. Rice, ISU Department of Entomology