

Partnership Perk



June 23, 2006

Soybean Aphids: June 2006

Soybean aphid populations have now been reported in soybean fields in most parts of Iowa. However, population densities were less than one aphid per plant in all counties.

Soybean aphid infestations require two events; aphids must first arrive in the field, and once there they must survive to reproduce. Survival and subsequent reproduction is dependant on several factors. Weather is one factor that is considered important for soybean aphid growth. Recent Iowa weather conditions—cool and dry—are more conducive for aphid reproduction. Another factor is the predation of the arriving aphids by predators such as spiders, daddy-long-legs, and ladybugs. It is not apparent whether predators are suppressing the arriving aphids sufficiently to avoid population surges.

Suction traps are used to sample the abundance of winged aphids—those with the potential to colonize new fields. Data gathered from a network of suction traps in Iowa and the rest of the North Central states and will be available starting in early July at the Website www.ncpmc.org/traps/index.cfm. Data are posted weekly.

Long Story Short: The soybean aphid has arrived in many parts of Iowa but the current populations are very low and do not require insecticide treatments. The extent to which the very low populations will result in economically significant outbreaks later in the season is not yet clear. We will continue to update you on the soybean aphid population expansion throughout the summer.

Source: Matt O’Neal and Marlin Rice, Department of Entomology