

Crop Update
8/23/16

Soybean Pasture

Late Season Soybean Pests

I have received calls about late season soybean pests. The fields I have been in have varied in larva species present and levels. The active feeding has been isolated to late planted/double crop soybeans and in particular where the rows are not quite lapped. Threshold for corn earworm (podworm) is 9 per 25 sweeps or an average of 1 podworm per foot of row. Planting date can have an influence on podworm population because moths key in on flowering when laying eggs, therefore check each field closely. Two other potential pod feeders, that I have not seen at treatment numbers, are stinkbugs and bean leaf beetles.

Insect defoliators are also present and shouldn't be confused with pod feeders. It takes considerably more defoliators to warrant treatment. During reproductive development, threshold is 20% defoliation. Iowa State for a visual of leaf area removal: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2002/7-29-2002/soydefoliation.html>. The dominant defoliator present is green cloverworm. Other defoliators that I am seeing include yellowstriped armyworm and saltmarsh caterpillar.

To differentiate the various larvae present in a field, one can count prolegs which are located in the middle hind section of caterpillar larvae. For example: soybean loopers have 2 pair of prolegs, green cloverworms have 3 pair of prolegs and earworm have 4 pair of prolegs. Mississippi State has a [soybean insect identification guide](#).

Cloverworms, bean leaf beetles and stinkbugs are relatively easy to control with pyrethroids. Soybean looper and corn earworm can be more difficult to control and products specifically targeting caterpillar larvae should be considered such as products containing, but not limited to, chlorantraniliprole, flubendiamide, or spinosad active ingredients. Information on products are found in the [MO Manual M171](#).

The other pest to monitor in August through early October is root knot nematode. Sample fields by digging up roots and checking for galls. To identify root knot nematodes, [University of Missouri Nematology Lab](#) needs live nematodes sent in during the afore mentioned time frame. More information on nematodes can be found in the [soybean nematode quick reference sheet](#).

Pasture Management

Monitor grass and alfalfa fields for fall armyworm feeding. Armyworm feed in the early morning and late evening, which is when you will want to scout fields. Threshold for

armyworm is an average of 4 non-parasitized larva per square foot. More information on armyworm can be found in [MU Guide 7115](#).

August is the time to begin the renovation process of cool season grass fields. For example, August is the timing for the third component of a "[spray-smother-spray](#)" program when establishing novel-endophyte fescue. Novel endophyte fescue provides persistence and other positive qualities of fescue without the toxic ergovaline produced in Kentucky 31.

August is also a good time to soil sample fields. Cool season grass root development occurs in the fall, therefore adequate fertility and pH is necessary for a healthy grass. A soil test will guide you on what is needed to improve the persistence and fall growth of your cool season grass.

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