



## Agricultural Products

### HatchTrak<sup>SM</sup>

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### Pest Update

Rapid crop growth in many areas has corn, soybeans, alfalfa growing through the threat of a lot of early insect damage. Yellow-striped armyworm were reported damaging soybeans in SC Nebraska. This occasional pest prefers to lay eggs in weedy, grassy fields. When the soybeans were sprayed with glyphosate, the armyworms moved to the soybeans as the weeds died. The armyworms tend to be found in patches in the field, but expand in area as they grow and the weeds are taken out. Be on the lookout for these types of defoliators. Growers can easily take them out by adding 2-2.5 oz of Mustang Max with the glyphosate application.



European Corn Borer moth catches have leveled off some from some high catches last week. Corn fields should begin to have egg masses show up soon. Watch the earliest planted fields as ECB prefer to lay eggs on the taller corn in the area. Capture chemigated at 2.5-3.0 oz or Mustang at 3-4 oz are very good for these infestations. Other applications are labeled as well.

Most of the alfalfa is either in the windrow or baled up in most areas. Now is key time to watch for adult alfalfa weevil slowing or stopping 2nd cutting green-up. As regrowth does begin, watch for infestations of Potato Leafhopper and grasshoppers. The high south winds of the last 2 weeks have been bringing a lot of leafhopper into eastern NE, KS, and OK. 2-3 leafhoppers / 10 sweeps is all that is necessary to warrant treatment in small alfalfa regrowth.

Newly hatched grasshoppers can be found in most areas of the region. Small hoppers may look like leafhoppers in the grass at this stage, but will grow fast. Watch for them to begin moving from road ditches, waterways, pivot corners, ect. over the next few weeks.



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### **Pest Update - Continued.**

Soybean fields with heavy grass, weed pressure are prime sites for grasshoppers. As fields are sprayed for weeds, the hoppers will begin to damage soybeans. If hoppers are present, it is a great time to add Mustang Max or Furadan to the glyphosate spray to take out weeds and grasshoppers in one pass. Grasshoppers on borders now will likely begin to move into fields in a few weeks, so growers need to be aware as they spray the outside of fields with glyphosate, that a border spray for grasshoppers may be needed as well.

### **Corn Rootworm**

Post Plant applications of Furadan should be applied to fields across NE, KS now. Hatch generally started from about the 25th of May in SE-Nebr. to this week in the Panhandle area. It takes about 0.75-1.0 of rainfall / irrigation to move Furadan into soil and activate the product. As soils begin to dry out, activity of most all soil insecticides decreases, so keeping a good soil moisture profile in irrigated fields insures the best results from both post applied and planting time insecticide treatments. ECB infestations should be watched as Furadan will control that pest if the ECB are present at spraying.

Capture may be chemigated for CRW larva control as well. The use rate is 5.12 -6.4 oz / acre and needs to be applied with a minimum of 0.75-1.0 inch of irrigation water. Since Capture is a long residual insecticide, it is recommended that growers apply Capture now, before feeding damage is severe, and avoid rescue situations. Typical late June applications in the past have been effective in stopping the rootworm feeding, but significant damage is already done. Capture will not interact with herbicides applied, cause mite flares. Any Capture left up on the plant should provide some residual for ECB control as well.

### **Spider Mites**

We have gotten a number of calls in the past couple of weeks regarding spider mites on small corn. Recommendations early in the season are to avoid chemical applications if possible. Chemical applications will be less effective because most of the spray reaches the dirt and not on the plant. Predators and moisture tend to keep early populations in check, but in very dry stretches, mites can be a problem on small corn. Early season stress to corn is less of a yield reducer than if mites are allowed to damage during the critical pollination and grain fill periods. If treatments are needed now to suppress mites and save the corn, banded treatments of dimethoate or Comite are common recommendations. A good stewardship practice is to not treat mites with the same chemistry twice in the same season so we try to save Capture for the more critical pollination and grain fill periods.



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### **Aim - Corn, Sorghum**

There are still a number of calls coming in regarding using Aim on large corn and sorghum. Research has shown Aim to be very safe if the application guidelines are followed. Aim is also very effective when used with drop nozzles between the rows for control of velvetleaf up to 30-36" tall, pigweeds, waterhemp, nightshades, kochia up to 4" and beyond in many cases. This allows much less product to be intercepted by crop leaves and no product in the whorl which is entering its critical time for tassel development, ear size on corn. When using drop nozzles with Aim, it is recommended that COC be used which will improve control of weeds with little or no risk to the crop. Aim is not translocated to the growing point, so it will not affect the developing reproductive parts of the plant. Lower, more mature crop leaves on corn and sorghum show very little if any spray symptoms from this use.

### **Sunflower - Stem Weevil**

Stem weevil adults began emerging in mid to late May and will be infesting sunflowers that are emerged. Furadan applied at the 8-10 leaf stage of sunflowers is very effective in providing control of this pest. Efficacy and yield results from Colo. State Univ and KSU has shown that Furadan 4F applied at 1.0 pt./ acre will significantly decrease stem weevil populations, lodging and improve yield. Studies done at KSU - Colby in 2001 showed a 500 - 1100 lb increase in sunflower yields when Furadan was applied post emergence in a study with 3 different planting dates. Other studies from 1998 through 2003 at CSU, KSU, and the USDA show a consistent improvement in yields and lower lodging with Furadan 4F.

Sunflower Stem Weevil not only bores through the stem, but the adult also are a vector for Black Stem Rot which cause most of the lodging problems. By applying Furadan 4F post, many progressive and successful sunflower growers have adopted this application as the most consistent way to protect sunflower yields. Sunflower prices are up some this year and growing sunflowers under limited irrigation can prove to be profitable if the yield potential is protected.