

Sunflower Stem Weevil

Growers with sunflowers in the **8-14 leaf stage** should be scouting for evidence of stem weevil adults. If you find 1 stem weevil / 3 plants, treat with **Furadan 4F at 1.0 pint per acre broadcast**. Several years of research from K-State, CSU, and USDA have shown increases of 500-1100 lb/acre when treating with Furadan between the 8-14 leaf stage. Furadan provides longer residual control and some systemic control of stem weevil which makes it the only truly effective program to manage stem weevil damage in sunflowers.

Soybean Stem Borer

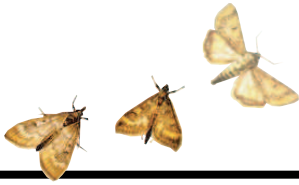
Soybean stem borer populations have been on the increase across KS the last several years and are now infestations appear to moving into counties in southern NE as well. The adult overwinters in soybean stubble and emerges in late June to early July and after mating, lays eggs in the petiole of soybeans. The larva then hatch, tunnel into the stem and burrow to the base of the plant where they girdle the stem as they prepare to overwinter. The tunneling and stem girdling can cause severe plant damage and lodging. This pest is common across most area of Kansas from Salina to the western borders. It also infests sunflowers and sunflowers are a major source of adult stem borer infestations that move to neighboring soybeans.

As indicated, the Stem Borer adults are present in soybeans now. Studies conducted at KSU the last several years in cooperation with FMC and others have shown that a well timed chemical spray can reduce infestations by 80% or more. Several years of research have shown from 3 to over 10 bu yield response from treating and reducing adult stem borer populations. A single application of **Mustang Max at 3.0-4.0 oz/acre** should provide excellent knockdown of the stem borer adults. Two applications of a lower rate may also be used to try to control the adults over a longer period during their extended mating and egg-laying period. Another option would be **Furadan 4F at 0.5 pint/acre**. Furadan is very effective on the stem borer and would knockout any other insects that might be taking yield from your beans.

The third week of July appears to be near the optimal time for treatment of the adults to reduce egg-laying and larval infestations. So if you have significant populations of adults present in soybeans or had damage in the last few years, you may want to look at controlling the adults. Remember that good coverage is needed to get the best knockdown with any chemical including Mustang Max. Use a minimum of 2 GPA with aerial application and include some COC to help with evaporation if the weather is very hot and humidities are low. More research is needed on other applications such as chemigation for this pest which we hope to do the near future.

Below are a few pictures of what to look for with Soybean Stem Borer in Soybeans.





Potato Leafhopper / Grasshoppers in Alfalfa

As we get further into the heat and dryness of July, be sure to keep an eye on the health of your alfalfa stands. As newly planted stands are being harvested, watch for yellowing of the regrowth. These newly established stands can succumb to increased winterkill if stressed severely during the remainder of the summer. Potato leafhopper and grasshopper infestations in new stand and older stands this time of year will reduce yields on 3rd and 4th cuttings as well as result in a weakened plant going into fall. The less healthy the stand going into fall, the greater the chances of winterkill and the shorter the stand life. With the high expense of replacing alfalfa stands, gaining 1-2 extra years out of the life of an alfalfa stand can be a big savings over the long haul. University research has shown that leafhopper infestations do result in weaker plants, slower spring greenup, and shorter standlife. **Mustang Max applied at 2.5-3.0 oz when alfalfa is early in its regrowth will remove those insect stresses on the alfalfa and provide higher yields, higher forage quality, and a healthier alfalfa crop.** A lot of attention is given to corn, soybeans, dry beans, sugarbeets this time of year, but don't forget your alfalfa crop.

Mustang Max - Dry Field Beans

Many may not know that Mustang Max is one of the premium products to insect control in dry beans. It controls all the major pests like Mexican Bean Beetle, Potato leafhopper, Western Bean Cutworm, grasshoppers and others. Mexican Bean Beetle can be controlled with very economical rates in the range of 2.0-2.5 oz. This should provide some excellent residual to keep fields clean for 7-14 days or more. For thrip control, coverage with any pyrethroid is difficult due to the location and habits of thrips in dry beans. Mustang Max can work well, if care is taken to thoroughly cover the bean plant. Products with some vapor active such as Orthene may be added to increase the level of control.

Aim - Late Millet / Fallow applications

Aim is labeled up through the jointing stage of both forage and grain millet. Growers planting a late season forage crop of millet have the option to use Aim to remove broadleaf weeds that may come up with the millet. The best program is to tankmix 0.5-0.75 oz of Aim with 0.75 pt of 2,4-D amine to control a broadspectrum of weeds in millet for less than \$5 per acre.

Aim is also a valuable tool to fight weed resistance and improve performance in your programs for fallow now that wheat harvest is nearing completion in most areas. Add Aim at 0.75-1.0 oz to help control pigweeds, kochia, Russian thistle, field bindweed, velvetleaf, nightshades, and others. Aim along with 2,4-D + glyphosate or glyphosate alone is a great combination to take down weeds in a hurry in fallow and begin to save moisture for the next crop. Aim has nearly no rotation restrictions to other crops so it is a flexible tool to help manage those tough weeds in fallow.