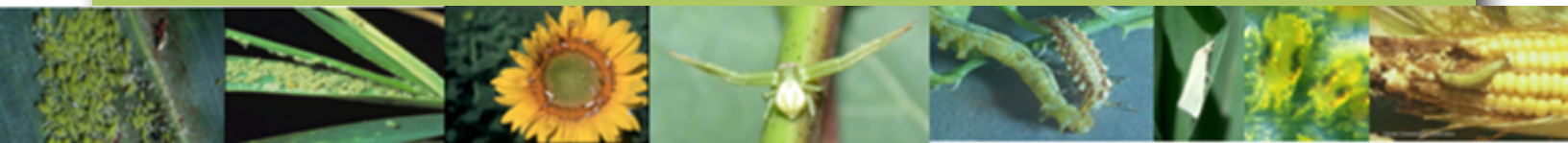


# Panhandle Pest Update



TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

Dr. Ed Bynum, Extension Entomologist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service,  
6500 Amarillo Blvd., West, Amarillo, TX 79106  
[Ebynum@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ebynum@ag.tamu.edu),  
806.677.5600 ext. 612



August 3, 2015 Volume VII, issue 8

## SCA or YSCA - What's the Difference

This past week sugarcane aphids (SCA) and the yellow sugarcane aphids (YSCA) have caused a great deal of concern for us on the high plains. SCA infestations have been confirmed to be at treatable levels in Floyd, Crosby, and Lubbock counties. Also, infestations have been confirmed in Dawson, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Swisher, and Terry Counties, but mostly at below treatable levels at this time. On July 31, Blayne Reed, Extension Agent - IPM, reported that "only Floyd of my three counties, Hale, Swisher, & Floyd has had any sugarcane aphids at threshold, and that is just a very few fields with other issues too. ... Most fields in our scouting program are only running 1-2 sugarcane aphids per leaf averaged across the field". This does not mean that other fields are not infested and need to be treated because depending on when a field is infested SCA may reach damaging levels in 5 to 14 days.

The other situation is that the YSCA has moved further north into the Panhandle. Infestations have been reported in Ochiltree County by J. R. Sprague, County Extension Agent - Lipscomb and Scott Strawn, County Extension Agent - Ochiltree, on Thursday, July 30th. And, on Friday, July 31st, I met Jody Bradford, County Extension Agent - Carson, to identify aphids that were being found in several of his fields. The aphids were the YSCA. The other SCA may be in fields in the Panhandle but to date populations have not been confirmed.

What has become evident is that there is confusion between these two aphids. Because of this confusion a table that compares differences between the SCA and the YSCA is below. It is important to know how to identify each of these pests because the insecticides and management options are different for the SCA and the YSCA.

Since this is the first year for us to have the SCA in damaging infestations, we are unsure of what to expect, what is the SCA, and how to manage the SCA. What has been learned in southeast Texas, where SCA's have been a pest since 2013, is to know how to identify the aphid and thoroughly scout fields. If you find aphids in your field that are unfamiliar to you, collect a sample to be taken to the County Extension's office or contact your County Extension Agent to collect a sample for species identification.

Another concern is what to do when there are other pest infestations in the field. Our Extension Entomologists' recommendations are to deal with the pest at the time that will limit yield and deal with other pests as they become an issue. Updated information about the SCA distribution, scouting procedures, treatment thresholds, insecticides, and management options with other pests are also found at <http://www.txscan.blogspot.com> and <http://www.texasinsects.org/sorghum.html>.



<http://txppipm.blogspot.com>



<https://twitter.com/TXPIPM>

Educational programs by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

Comparison Table - Photos page 4

Yellow Sugarcane Aphid	Sugarcane Aphid
<b>Identifying Characteristics</b>	<b>Identifying Characteristics</b>
Usually lemon yellow, but may be pale green	Pale yellow, gray or tan
Body covered with small spines (hairs), cornicles are very small are not easily seen, and tips of feet and antennae are not black	Tips of cornicles (“tailpipes”), feet, antennae are black
Hosts - grain sorghum, forage sorghums and sorghum related plants like johnsongrass and dallisgrass and many different grasses.	Hosts - grain sorghum, forage sorghums and sorghum related plants like johnsongrass and dallisgrass.
<b>Damage</b>	<b>Damage</b>
Primarily a pest of seedling plants, but feeding damage can still be significant on older plants. Feed on the underside of leaves of seedling and older leaves. Populations do not develop to high numbers per leaf.	Feed on the underside of all leaves. Populations develop to extremely high numbers per leaf from seedling, boot, and heading growth stages.
Injects a potent toxin when feeding that can kill leaves. Very few aphids per leaf cause seedling leaves to turn purple and older leaves yellow.	Does not inject toxin when feeding, but feeding cause leaves to turn yellow, purple, and finally brown as leaf tissue dies. Large pre-boot infestations can stunt growth and uneven head emergence from boot causing significant yield loss.
Does not produce honeydew.	Produce heavy amounts of “honeydew”. Sticky leaves, stalks, and head clog combines along with reducing grain separation from heads at harvest.  Honeydew contaminated leaves and stems can gum up cutter bars when harvesting for silage, forage, etc.
<b>Sampling</b>	<b>Sampling</b>
Colonies infest the lower portion of the canopy. Look for discolored lowered leaves when scouting.	Inspect underside of leaves from both the upper and lower canopy. If honeydew is present, look for sugarcane aphids on the underside of the leaf above the honeydew.  If no sugarcane aphids are present, or only a few individual wingless or winged aphids are present on upper leaves, then continue once a week scouting.  If sugarcane aphids are found on lower or mid-canopy leaves, begin twice a week scouting to determine if aphid densities exceed the economic threshold.

Yellow Sugarcane Aphid	Sugarcane Aphid
Management Decisions	Management Decisions
<p><b>Grain Sorghum</b> Seedling plants - Economic injury levels have been established for seedling plants up to the three true-leaf stage (<a href="http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/entomology/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2014/07/B-1220.pdf">http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/entomology/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2014/07/B-1220.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Larger plants - No economic injury levels have been established for vegetative plants after the three true-leaf stage and during head development, but damaging infestations may develop and cause yield losses. Using the following action threshold that was developed for greenbugs can prevent excessive yield losses when YSCA are infesting older grain sorghum.</p> <p><b>6 inches to boot</b> - Treat when colonies are causing red spotting or yellowing of leaves and before any entire normal-sized leaves on 20% of plants are killed.</p> <p><b>Boot to heading</b> - Treat if there is death of one functional normal-sized leaf on 20% of plants.</p> <p><b>Head to hard dough</b> - Treat when colonies are sufficient to cause death of two normal-sized leaves on 20% of plants.</p>	<p><b>Grain Sorghum</b> If the field average is 50-125 sugarcane aphids/leaf or greater, apply an insecticide within 4 days and evaluate control after 3-4 days (refer to insecticide labels for re-entry intervals). Consider treatment at 50 aphids/leaf if limited to only once a week scouting.</p> <p>If the field average is less than the threshold level, continue scouting twice a week.</p> <p><b>Forage Sorghum</b> Treatment thresholds for SCA infesting forage sorghums and Johnsongrass meadows have not been determined. Until those thresholds are available, the thresholds used for grain sorghum can provide a guide to making treatment decisions.</p>
Suggested Insecticides	Suggested Insecticides
<p>All commercially treated seed insecticides will control seedling infestations for about 4-5 weeks.</p> <p>Foliar insecticides - Field experience has shown that chlorpyrifos 4E at 12 floz/A mixed with dimethoate 4E at 12 floz/A provides good control. But do not apply dimethoate after sorghum heads emerge from the boot.</p>	<p>All commercially treated seed insecticides will control seedling infestations for about 4-5 weeks.</p> <p>Foliar insecticides <b>Transform WG</b> - 0.75 - 1.5 floz/A, 1.0 floz/A suggested, no more than 3 floz/A per season and only 2 applications per season. Minimum application volume - full plant coverage by ground or 5 gpa by air. Pre-harvest interval - 14 days for grain or straw, 7 days for grazing or forage, fodder or hay harvesting. <b>Sivanto 200SL</b> - 4 - 7 floz/A, 4 floz/A suggested, no more than 28 floz/A per season. Minimum application volume - 10 gpa by ground, 2 gap by air. Pre-harvest interval - 21 days for grain or straw or stover, 7 days for grazing, forage, fodder, or hay harvest.</p> <p>Both Transform and Sivanto will control greenbugs and yellow sugarcane aphids when there are mixed infestations with sugarcane aphids.</p>

