Kudzu Bugs on Soybeans: Insecticide Recommendations
Information gathered from North Carolina Pest News articles by
Dominic Reisig, NCSU Extension Entomologist

Kudzu bugs (a.k.a. bean plataspid, Megacopta cribraria) have been reported on soybeans in Robeson County. This is the first report of kudzu bugs on soybeans. Kudzu bugs were located on kudzu in Robeson County on June 20, 2011, by Agricultural Research Specialist Dan Mott.

Kudzu bugs are native to Asia and were discovered in Georgia in 2009. Adult kudzu bugs are 4 - 6 millimeters long and olive-green colored with brown speckles. They are related to various species of stink bugs and may produce a familiar odor when disturbed. With declining temperatures and day lengths, be aware that this pest will search for warm secluded sites to overwinter and find your home very appealing.

This insect seems to find flowering soybeans attractive but will still migrate to and persist on the plants through the reproductive stages. Although it is a stem and leaf feeder, it can still cause significant yield loss. The treatment threshold is 3 - 5 kudzu bugs per plant or 1 kudzu bug per sweep (e.g., 15 kudzu bugs in a 15-sweep sample or 25 kudzu bugs in a 25-sweep sample). More information on treatment thresholds and kudzu bug photographs can be found at: http://www.nccrops.com/?p=80.

If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me at the Extension Center or E-mail me at Mac_Malloy@ncsu.edu no later than five business days before the event.

Sincerely,

Mac Malloy
Extension Agent
Agriculture – Field Crops
MM/dh
The best insecticide treatment options are a pyrethroid or acephate. Consider the pest complex when making a treatment decision. Tolerance to pyrethroid insecticides has been documented in the state for pests such as the corn earworm/tobacco budworm complex, bean leaf beetles, soybean loopers, and brown stink bugs. With the specter of these pests on the horizon, you will want to scout intensively before making a treatment decision. Here are some options to consider if you have to spray for kudzu bugs in the mid-season:

- Kudzu bugs and corn earworms/tobacco budworms only - If corn earworms are present in significant amounts, DO NOT use a pyrethroid without mixing 0.5 pounds of acephate or an alternative chemistry targeted for lepidopteran pests (such as Belt, Larvin, Steward, or Tracer). Do not use a straight neonicotinoid (e.g., Belay) or any insecticide mixed with a neonicotinoid when kudzu bugs are present (e.g., Endigo, Leverage 360, etc.).

- Kudzu bugs and bean leaf beetles only - If bean leaf beetles are present and you have not used a pyrethroid for bean leaf beetles in the past, use a pyrethroid. If you have been using a pyrethroid for bean leaf beetles, use acephate.

- Kudzu bugs and green stink bugs only - Use a pyrethroid at the highest labeled rate.

- Kudzu bugs and brown stink bugs only - Use acephate at the highest labeled rate.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this newsletter as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

Southern Coastal Plains Small Grains Extension Program 2011 Test Report

After much anticipation, the results have finally been published from the extensive work that was done at the various research plots you may have seen on your travels around the county. A limited number of copies are available at the Extension Center. It is also available on-line at: www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu. I hope you will find this report very informative as you make decisions for your next wheat crop. The report highlights variety performance and recommendations, east coast foliar fungicide and insecticide programs, fungicide timing, head scab management, deep tillage practices, seeding rates, seed treatments, potash and nitrogen management, and Italian ryegrass and broadleaf weed management.

2011 Soybean Production and Most Efficient Yield Contests for North Carolina

Purposes - The purposes of the N. C. Soybean Production and Most Efficient Yield (MEY) Contests are to emphasize those practices associated with efficient and profitable soybean production, to recognize those producers who produce high yields or produce their yields efficiently, and to gather data on the practices utilized by these outstanding producers.

Eligibility - Any grower (owner-operator, tenant, or tenant-landlord team) who produces 3 or more acres of soybeans in North Carolina is eligible to enter the contest. The contest area must be located entirely in North Carolina; there are no restrictions on the residence of the grower submitting the entry. A grower may make more than 1 entry but will be eligible for only 1 award in each contest. Growers who wish to evaluate an entire field are encouraged to do so. There are no restrictions on cultural or management practices used.

Contest Requirements - A minimum of 3 acres will be evaluated, with the field measurement and yield determination under the supervision of a County Soybean Contest Committee member. Completed entries are to be in the mail to the State Soybean Contest Committee on or before December 25. Summaries of yields and production costs will be made available to each participant, each county Extension soybean agent, and anyone else desiring these summaries.

Please contact me if you are interested in participating.
Upcoming Events – Don’t Miss Out

Soybean and Grain Sorghum Twilight Tour
Tuesday, September 27, at 4 p.m.
Soybean Variety Demonstration Plot, 23837 Hwy 71 North, Parkton (Next to FCI Fertilizer Plant)
Hosted by Mac Malloy, Extension Field Crops Agent, and Rick Morris, NCDA&CS Regional Agronomist

Take advantage of this great opportunity! See 15 of the top-ranking soybean varieties among 5 maturity groups. All 15 varieties have either ranked in the top 10 of their maturity group in 5 of the 6 yield categories (over all locations, planted early, planted late, in a 20-bu/a environment, in a 40-bu/a environment, or in a 60-bu/a environment) or have ranked 1st or 2nd in at least 1 of the 6 categories in OVT trials. This list currently includes 3 group IVs, 5 group Vs, 3 group VIs, 3 group VIs, and 1 group VIII.

Did your marginal corn land crop suffer again this year? Take this great opportunity to expose yourself to grain sorghum production. Grain sorghum, better adapted to warm and dry climates than corn, is used primarily as a feed grain for livestock. With escalating corn prices, grain sorghum is becoming an attractive alternative as a local feedstock. Come see what potential grain sorghum production might have in your crop rotation and how it could improve your bottom line.

*Program will start at the Soybean Variety Demonstration Plot and continue with a short drive to grain sorghum field. Please contact me at 910-671-3276 or E-mail mac_malloy@ncsu.edu for more details or directions.

Tri-County Small Grains Production Meeting (Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland)
Tuesday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m.
O. P. Owens Agriculture Center, Lumberton

Dr. Randy Weisz, NCSU Extension small grains specialist, and Georgia P. Love, NCSU Extension associate, will present the latest research information and related topics for profitable wheat production.

Topics will include:

Results of the 2011 On-Farm Tests for the Southern Coastal Plain area, Using Seed Treatments, Seeding Rates for Conventional and No-Till Situations, Use of Early Insecticide and Fungicide Applications, Variety Information for the Southern Coastal Plain, Disease and Insect Management, Fertility Considerations, and Weed Management

If you plan to plant small grains this fall, I encourage you to make time to attend this very informative meeting. This will also be a great opportunity to pick up a copy of the 2011 Southern Coastal Plains Small Grains Extension Program 2011 Test Report. Pesticide (N, O, D, and X) and Certified Crop Advisor credits will be available. A sponsored meal will be provided, so please call the Extension Center at 910-671-3276 to register for the meeting and the meal. Don’t forget to mark the date on your calendar.

Nickels for Know-How Referendum

A self-assessed, statewide check-off that supports agricultural research, Extension, and teaching programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at N.C. State University will be held Wednesday, November 16. Users of feed and fertilizer in North Carolina will vote on whether to continue the voluntary 15 cents per ton self-assessment on fertilizer and animal feed produced in our state. Since 1951, the Nickels
check-off has been voted on every 6 years and has passed in the 13 previous referenda by an average 90 percent favorable vote.

In addition, Nickels for Know-How provides support for fund raising efforts in CALS that generate over $20 million annually in private contributions. This is a $50 return on every dollar invested. Some of the entities that Nickels provides support include the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Foundation, the CALS Research Foundation, the N.C. 4-H Development Fund, the N.C. FFA Foundation, the N.C. Family & Consumer Sciences Foundation, the N.C. Dairy Foundation, the CALS Alumni and Friends Society, and the J. C. Raulston Arboretum Board of Directors.

Nickels funds have helped the College to raise funds for over 550 endowments valued at over $100 million that provide $900,000 in support of scholarships for 800 undergraduate students in the College. In addition, these endowments support faculty efforts, county Extension programs, commodity research efforts, and other programs in CALS.

Persons will be able to vote at the following Robeson County locations:

- North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
  455 Caton Road, Lumberton
- Farm Service Agency  
  440 Caton Road, Lumberton
- Southern States  
  525 Roberts Avenue, Lumberton
- St. Pauls Farmers Exchange  
  224 W. Broad Street, St. Pauls
- J. R. Jones Grain  
  1108 Daniel McLeod Road, Red Springs
- Collins and Sons Milling Company  
  4033 Old Red Springs Road, Maxton
- Helena Chemical Company  
  13866 US Hwy 301 South, Rowland
- Crop Production Services  
  200 Center Street, Fairmont
- FCI Chemical and Seed Warehouse  
  135 West 1st Street, Parkton

For more information, please contact Nelson Brownlee, Extension area farm management agent, at the Extension Center at (910) 671-3276 or by E-mail at Nelson_Brownlee@ncsu.edu.

**Growing Rural Communities**

The Monsanto Fund is pleased to announce the second annual America’s Farmers Grow Communities, a program that gives farmers, like you, the opportunity to win $2,500 for your favorite community nonprofit organization. America’s Farmers Grow Communities is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to support local farming communities. The program allows farmers to register to win $2,500 for their favorite community nonprofit organization, such as FFA, 4-H, schools, fire departments, and other civic groups. One winner will be selected in each of 1,245 eligible counties in 38 states. Through this program, $4.2 million has been donated to rural communities across the country! Apply and the Monsanto Fund will donate $1 to your local United Way to help food banks and other charitable organizations dealing with hunger in your community. Visit GrowCommunities.com or call 1-877-267-3332. **Registration ends November 30, 2011.**

**Wrap–Up**

So far, it has been an interesting year, to say the least. Each production year brings about its own unique challenges. North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center, is committed to providing growers with the latest research-based information and recommendations that enrich the lives, land, and economy of North Carolina. I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful and timely. For additional information about Cooperative Extension, visit our website at Robeson.ces.ncsu.edu.

Soil Test - Now is a perfect time to get started on taking your soil and nematode samples on your corn land.