Scout Rice For Stink Bugs

Most of our rice is heading and should be checked for stinkbugs weekly through maturity. According to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, U of A Extension Entomologist, stink bugs feed on developing kernels resulting in blanks during the milk stage of development. As stink bugs continue to feed during the dough stage of development they weaken kernels resulting in lower milling and head rice yields.

Scouting during early morning or late evening gives the most reliable estimate of stink bug levels. A 15 inch diameter sweep net should be used to assess stink bug populations. The threshold to trigger an insecticide application the first 2 weeks after 75% heading is when an average of 5 or more stink bugs are found per 10 sweeps, or when 2 or more stink bugs per square yard are present. Studebaker notes that once rice enters the dough stage the threshold goes up to 10 stink bugs per 10 sweeps, or when 3 or more stink bugs per square yard are present. Several locations should be checked for each field. Studebaker advises not to make automatic applications for control. This can wipe out beneficial insects like the long horned grasshopper.

Insecticides listed for control of the rice stink bug in the MP 144 include Seven, Malathion, Tenchu, Prolex, Proaxis, Declare, Karate Z, and Mustang Max. Repeat treatment may be needed if stink bug numbers are high.***

2017 Arkansas Rice Expo Set for August 4th

Make plans to take a day off to attend this year’s Arkansas Rice Expo. It will once again take place at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart at 807 US 165, next to Phillips Community College. It begins at 8:00 am and admission is free.

The Expo is a great opportunity to see other farmers and agricultural professionals involved in producing and marketing rice. As always, it was planned with activities for the whole family in mind, so bring your spouse and children. More information is available at this website:

https://www.uaex.edu/rice-expo/
SOYBEANS

Insect Threshold Levels

Make sure to regularly check soybeans for foliage & pod feeders. According to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, Arkansas Extension Entomologist, foliage feeding worms found in soybeans include corn earworm, soybean looper, green cloverworm, velvetbean caterpillar, garden webworm, yellow striped armyworm, beet armyworm, and fall armyworm. Before bloom, treat for worms if they cause over 40% defoliation. After bloom, treat for over 25% defoliation.

Most of our earliest planted soybeans are setting pods and should be watched closely for earworms. They prefer to feed on pods and can cause significant yield losses. Fields with plants not covering the row middles (often late planted beans) generally have the most worm pressure.

A dynamic threshold, based upon both crop value and cost of control per acre, was implemented last year to treat for earworms in soybeans. For example, for soybeans at $10 per bushel, plus an insecticide treatment cost of $10 per acre, the threshold to spray is 5 earworms per 25 sweeps. Sweep deep into the canopy to get more accurate estimates of worm numbers. If you have row beans, the dynamic threshold trigger is 0.7 earworms per row foot at the same $10 value and $10 treatment cost. A chart for the dynamic threshold can be found in the UA Insect control guide (MP 144). Remember to only count worms that are 1/2 inch or longer (beneficials feed on the smaller worms). You should also observe plants for presence and degree of pod feeding.

Studebaker notes that several synthetic pyrethroids and carbamates are labeled for control of corn earworm. He also advises using some of the “softer insecticides” in other chemistries like Belt, Steward, Blackhawk, Prevathon, Heligen, and Intrepid Edge. They are not as harsh on beneficials. In addition, earworm resistance to pyrethroids has increased in recent years making them not as consistent for earworm control.

Stink bug numbers also generally build up during August. A stink bug can feed for several weeks making dents in both yield and quality. The treatment threshold is an average of 9 stink bugs per 25 sweeps, or 1 per row foot (14,000/acre) when using a shake sheet. Studebaker notes that pyrethroids are effective on green stink bugs, but for brown stink bugs, acephate, bifenthrin, Belay, or Endigo are the effective options.

Keep an eye out for the redbanded stink bug. At present it is only being found in south Arkansas. It does a lot more damage to soybeans than green or brown stink bugs. It is also more difficult to control with insecticides. Please give us a call if you find any redbanded stink bugs in your fields.

Kudzu bugs are present in some soybean fields at trace levels in Greene County. They will not likely build to high enough levels to treat, but you should scout your fields for a build up of nymphs. The treatment threshold is 25 nymphs per 25 sweeps or 4 per row foot. They are easy to control with a pyrethroid.***
Considerations To Apply Fungicides

Some soybean growers may be considering fungicide application. The U of A Extension service does not recommend an automatic application of a fungicide unless you have disease present in the field or are in the seed production business.

The main two diseases to scout for are Frogeye leaf spot and aerial web blight. Strobie fungicide resistance has been documented for some fields in Greene County treated for Frogeye. Hopefully the varieties you planted have Frogeye resistance. Check out the UA Disease Guide, MP 154, for more details on the need to use foliar fungicides in soybeans, and products recommended.

Target spot is another disease that was present at moderate levels in some soybean fields last year.

Please let us know if you find any in your fields this season. We would like to establish some strip tests to see what kind of a yield response is seen using fungicides to control target spot.***

Please let us know any time we may be of assistance,

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