



IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NEWS

Insect Activity Update

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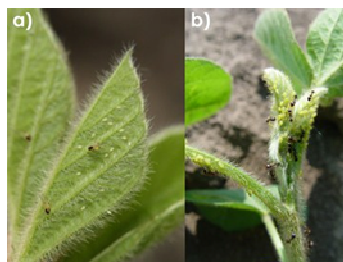
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During the last week of May, I heard about a few insect sightings in Iowa. The first was a report by ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist Brian Lang in northeastern Iowa. He saw a soybean aphid on VC soybean in his small research plot near Decorah on May 28. I wasn't surprised, given that part of the state is where we usually first see soybean aphid every year. Winged females deposit a few nymphs per day in May and June. You may need a hand lens to see first instars on small plants (Fig. 1A). Often I confirm early-season colonies in soybean by looking for ants and lady beetles (Fig. 1B).

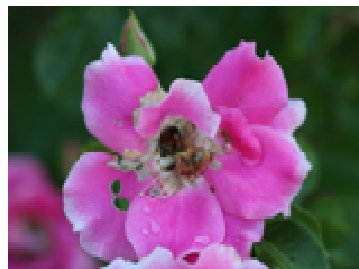
Figure 1. Soybean aphids start migrating to their summer host in May and June. A) Winged females deposit nymphs on expanding trifoliates. B)



Colonies often will be tended by ants and can help with early-season detection while scouting. Photos by Brian McCornack, Kansas State University.

Japanese beetle adults are starting to show up in central Iowa. Kelly Gill, ISU entomology graduate student, saw them destroying rose buds near the library in Ames, Iowa (Fig. 2). We don't typically see adults until mid-June in Iowa, but our mild winter has accelerated insect development. Japanese beetles have also been reported in other states like Illinois. They could be pests in corn and soybean later in the season, but keep an eye on their population densities in June.

Figure 2. Japanese beetles are strongly attracted to roses and other ornamentals. Eventually, they can be pests in corn and soybean. Photo by Erin Hodgson.



Black cutworm is still causing damage in some parts of Iowa. There are reports of significant stand loss due to feeding and clipping in young corn (Fig. 3). Mark Carlton, ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomist, reports some late-planted corn fields are being replanted in southeastern Iowa this week due to stand loss by black cutworm. I recommend scouting for black cutworm until corn reaches V5. Read this ICM News article for more scouting information.



Figure 3. Black cutworm can significantly damage young corn plants. A) Larvae often enter young

corn plants above ground by making an entry hole. B) Cutworms curl up when disturbed. Photos by Jon Kiel.

A few other caterpillars are showing up in corn, too. First generation European corn borer eggs and young larvae can be found on corn leaves (Fig. 4). Older, non-traited corn should be scouted now to estimate densities. A dynamic threshold calculator.xls is available here. Tracy Cameron, an agronomist near Creston, also found a few corn earworm caterpillars in young corn. This is a little early to see corn earworm in Iowa, but most insects are showing up 1-2 weeks earlier than normal.

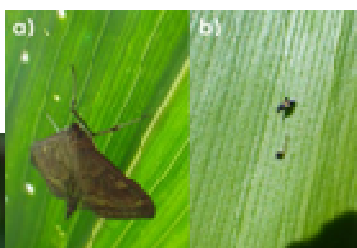


Figure 4. European corn borer moths have been collected in black light traps and with sweep nets around early-planted corn. A)

Females will deposit first generation eggs on corn leaves. B) European corn borer larvae have a high predation rate; here a pirate bug is hunting down a young larva. Photos by Thomas Hillyer.

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Rooted in The Future

By: Darcy Dougherty Maulsby

A Chinese proverb states that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, and the next best time is now.

AJ Blair and his wife, Kellie, recently took this advice to heart when they planted 70 new Austrees, or hybrid willows, for a windbreak north of the cattle barn on their Dayton-area farm.

"We want to do the right thing," said AJ Blair, 30, a fourth-generation farmer who noted that the family's monoslope barn for dairy calves offered one of the most economically feasible ways for them to expand their operation.

On May 24, the Blairs hosted a "Growing Livestock, Growing Iowa" field day on their farm to showcase the Green Farmstead Partner program offered through the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers.

During the event, the Blair family, which has an established windbreak at its hog barn, demonstrated how to plant Austrees on the farm. Not only will this windbreak help protect the environment, but it can help maintain positive relationships with the Blairs' non-farm neighbors, which is important to the family.

"Working through the Coalition's Green Farmstead Partner program has helped us identify cost-share programs and nurseries that have worked with other livestock facilities," said Kellie Blair, 28, who noted that the couple appreciates the opportunity to rear their two young children on the farm.

"This has been a great resource."

The Green Farmstead Partner program, a collaborative effort between CSIF, Trees Forever and the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association, provides technical information and resources to help families install shelterbelts on livestock and poultry farms.

"This program offers a great way to unite the ag community and the environmental community in one effort," said Rita Cook, a CSIF assistant field specialist.

When properly planted and managed, trees and shrubs around livestock barns and feedlots can help reduce odor emissions by 10 to 15 percent, according to Iowa State University research.

That's important, Cook said, because CSIF research shows that 84 percent of Iowans say the implementation of best-management practices on farms (including the planting of trees and shrubs) gives them a more favorable opinion of livestock farmers.

In addition, strategically-placed vegetative environmental buffers (the technical term for shelterbelts and windbreaks comprised of rows of trees and shrubs purposely planted around livestock facilities) can help:

- Protect soil and water quality.
- Control snow deposition.
- Conserve energy and provide shade.

- Reduce objectionable odors.
- Improve farm aesthetics.
- Enhance neighbor and community relations.

The cost of establishing a new vegetative environmental buffer varies, based on the goals of the farm family, the size of the site and the extent of the project, according to CSIF. Austrees offer a cost-effective solution, since new trees can easily be started from existing ones, said Mark Pingenot, a Trees Forever field coordinator and certified arborist.

Simply cut stems from established Austrees and soak the stems in a bucket of water until roots begin to form, which usually takes a couple of weeks.

"Austrees are very forgiving and are easy to grow," said Pingenot, who noted that it's a good idea to plant a windbreak at least 70 to 80 feet back from a livestock barn to allow enough space for adequate airflow and snow drop.

It's tough to overwater Austrees, Pingenot said, who noted that newly-planted trees generally require about 1 inch of water during their first year and should be watered until the ground freezes.

While Austrees are a relatively short-lived species compared to trees like oaks, there are ways to get around this challenge. "Although an Austree windbreak might only last 40 to 50 years, tops, if you just let it go, you could easily double or quadruple this by coppicing," Pingenot said.

Coppicing is the art of cutting of trees and shrubs to ground level to allow vigorous regrowth. With Austrees, which can be planted six feet apart, coppicing should begin approximately eight to 10 years after planting. Cut every other tree off at the bottom, around ground level, and allow the trees to regrow. When coppicing is done correctly, it can dramatically lengthen the lifespan of a windbreak, Pingenot said.

Although the Green Farmstead Partner program and its partners do not provide any cost-share dollars for the establishment of vegetative environmental buffers, there are numerous federal and state environmental enhancement programs that can help.

These may include the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Resource Enhancement and Protection, and Trees Forever Working Watersheds-Buffers and Beyond Program.

In addition, CSIF encourages landowners to work with a nursery and landscape professional to discuss options for a vegetative environmental buffer. CSIF has a network of 19 nursery and landscaping partners around Iowa who understand the unique requirements of planting trees on farms.

INLA Committee Meeting— June 26 2012

All members are welcome to join us at Reiman Gardens, in Ames for our committee meeting, on Tuesday, June 26.

INLA will meet to discuss matters pertaining to the convention, membership and certification committees, at 10 A.M. with lunch being provided after the meeting adjourns.

If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien by emailing joano@agribiz.org or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



INLA Sponsors FFA Career Development

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association is dedicated to nurturing the future of its industry. One testament to that is the sponsorship of the FFA Career Development Event, which was held on Tuesday, June 12 on the campus of Kirkwood Community College.

Due to the generous support from INLA an invitation was offered to our president, Tom Hughes, to address the crowd and give encouragement the students attending. As well as enlighten the younger generation about how joining the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association can benefit their future in the industry.

This event aims to stimulate career interest, encourage proficiency development and recognize excellence in students through nursery practices and landscaping.

The Nursery & Landscape sponsorship will allow FFA members to experience educational situations that will test their abilities and knowledge through a variety of real-world settings.

The INLA's support helps to cover the plaques and ribbons for the top performing chapters and students as well as the travel money for the champion team to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

First Annual INLA Service Day!

The first Annual INLA Service Day will be September 12, 2012. The project will take place on the State Capitol grounds and will be a fun filled all day event.

We encourage you to put this on your calendars, so our first service day will be a successful event.

More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Please feel free to call Joan O'Brien with any questions. She can be reached by email at joano@agribiz.org or by calling 515-262-8323.



Order Your INLA Garden Catalog

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association strives to provide our members the tools and knowledge needed to run a successful business. One of the tools INLA provides are Garden Catalogs that you can provide to your customers.

INLA offers the following catalogs, planners, and care guides: trees and shrubs, perennials, ideas, yard and garden, and planting and care guide.

Attached is the order form for INLA catalogs. If you would like to order any catalogs, please fill out the form and return it to the INLA office. If you have any questions, please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323.

INLA Job Board

The INLA has a new job board feature on the website.

This feature will be a great tool if you are in the market for a new job or if you are a company looking for talent! Both resumes and job postings are welcome.

Our hope is to create a more efficient way for our industry to interact, when it comes to employment and sustaining our level of professionals.

To access the job board on the website please go to: <http://iowanla.org/job-postings/>