

## ARE BEETLES CLIPPING CORN SILKS?

Corn rootworm beetles have reached peak emergence, and once pollination begins, they will move to the ear tips and feed on pollen and silks. Japanese beetles have also emerged from the soil in force, resulting in very large populations, especially in southern areas. Adult Japanese beetles will feed on many different species of plants and can cause extensive damage; however, feeding on corn silks is usually minimal and spotty, and generally does not occur much beyond the edges of a field. Late planted corn will be especially susceptible to high levels of feeding damage. If either of these beetles are clipping silks, an insecticide treatment may be necessary if there are 5 corn rootworm beetles or 3 Japanese beetles per ear, and silks are being cut off to less than 1/2 inch of the ear tip, before 50% pollination has taken place. Several insecticide treatments are available, including **Arctic** at 6 fl oz/acre, **Delta Gold** at 1.9 fl oz/acre, or **Taiga Z** at 3.2 fl oz/acre. The addition of adjuvants such as **Preference** at 1-2 pt/100gal + **Interlock** at 2 oz/acre, will improve canopy penetration and overall plant coverage of the insecticide.

## PHYTOPHTHORA CAUSING WILTING SYMPTOMS IN SOYBEANS



fields are now experiencing hot and/or dry

Some areas are beginning to report wilting and dying of soybeans in large areas of certain fields. This is most likely the "killing phase" of Phytophthora root and stem rot occurring where earlier waterlogged

growing conditions. Symptoms to watch for are a rapid wilting and desiccation of the leaves. Dead plants will have the leaves still attached. Plants will generally show a blackish-brown discoloration of the stem starting at the soil line, although there are reports that this has not always been apparent this season. No rescue treatment is available at this time; however this offers an excellent opportunity to work with growers on field histories as they relate to variety selection, seed treatment, etc.

## HOT WEATHER MAY INCREASE SPIDER MITE POPULATIONS

This pest generally does not become a problem until later in the summer, but hot and in some areas dry conditions, may cause a rapid developed of populations. In soybeans, damage first appears as yellow/white speckling around the leaf vein at the base of the leaf. As the damage progresses, the leaves take on a bronze color on the upper surface. Heavily infested leaves often have fine silk webbing on the undersides. With heavy pressure, leaves eventually turn brown and can drop off the plant. Shake the damaged plants over a white piece of paper and watch for small dark spots moving against the white background. Two spotted spider mites are barely visible with the naked eye. They are greenish yellow to orange in color, with 2 distinct dark spots on each side of the body. Watch field edges, or areas within fields which contained winter annual weeds such as chickweed, for the first signs of these pests. No-till soybean fields which did not receive a fall burndown treatment are extremely vulnerable. Hot, dry conditions can quickly spread populations across an entire field. At temperatures above 85° F, spider mites can complete an entire life cycle in 5 days. Thresholds are not well defined for spider mites, however treatment is often recommended if there is 20-25% discoloration prior to podding, or 10-15% discoloration after pod set. The Ohio State University has

developed a new set of treatment guidelines that may be useful when evaluating infested fields (see below). Products labeled for control include **Dimate** at 1 pint/A, and **Yuma 4E** at 0.5-1 pint/A. Application should be made with high water volume and pressure. The addition of adjuvants such as **PowerLock** at 6 oz/acre (or **Preference** at 1-2 pt/100gal + **Interlock** at 2 oz/acre), will improve canopy penetration and overall plant coverage of the insecticide. It should be noted that when spraying Dimate, avoid mixing in alkaline (high pH) water, as this causes extremely rapid breakdown of the insecticide resulting in reduced effectiveness. If using an alkaline water source be sure to adjust the pH of the solution using **Balance or Level 7**.

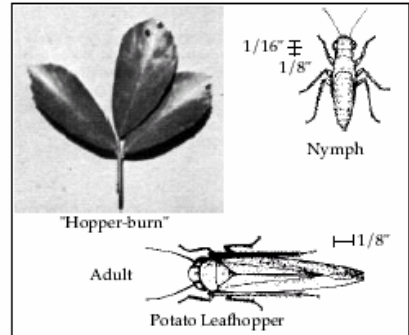
**Spider Mite Treatment Guidelines**  
(Adapted from The Ohio State University)

Presence of mites	Damage	Assessment
Barely detected on undersides of leaves	Barely detected	<b>Non-economic</b>
Easily detected on undersides of leaves in dry locations or on edges of fields. Difficult to find on leaves within the field.	Foliage green, but stippling injury detectable on undersides of leaves, although not on every plant.	<b>Non-economic</b> , but keep monitoring
All plants are infested when examined closely.	All plants in field exhibit varying levels of stippling, even on healthy leaves. Some speckling and discoloration of lower leaves.	<b>Rescue treatment</b> is warranted
All plants heavily infested when examined closely.	Discolored and wilted leaves easily found throughout the field. Severe damage evident.	Effective <b>rescue treatment</b> will save field.
Extremely high numbers.	Field discolored, leaves drying down. Significant foliage and stand loss.	Rescue treatment may not save field.  However, new

		growth may resume if treated.
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**HIGH NUMBERS OF POTATO LEAFHOPPER BEING FOUND IN ALFALFA**

Alfalfa fields throughout the region should be scouted for potato leafhopper. Regrowth following cutting is especially



vulnerable to damage. Leafhopper damage not only reduces yield, but also reduces forage quality. If left uncontrolled over several cuttings, potato leafhoppers can also cause significant stand reductions. Leafhopper damage can be prevented with insecticide sprays if applied before yellowing occurs. The need to treat for leafhoppers can be determined by scouting fields using a standard insect sweep net. Take at least 5 sets of 20 sweeps, count the number of leafhoppers (adults and nymphs), and then calculate the number of leafhoppers per sweep. A general rule-of-thumb threshold is 0.10 leafhopper per sweep for every inch of average alfalfa stem height. Popular insecticide treatments include **Arctic** at 4-8 oz/acre, **Dimate** at 0.5-1 pt/acre, **Taiga Z** 1.92-3.2 oz/acre, or **Yuma 4E** at 0.5-1.0 pt/acre. The addition of adjuvants such as **PowerLock (or Preference + Interlock)** will improve canopy penetration and overall plant coverage of the insecticide. This is also an excellent opportunity to add **Max-In For Alfalfa** micronutrient mixture, which has been shown to improve plant health, yield, and quality. Remember that once symptoms begin to appear, most of the damage is already done.