

SoyFax: Midsouth

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Here is this week's SoyFax, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of **Quadris®**.

OVERVIEW

More insecticide applications are going out in the southern half of our coverage area. Pests being treated include stinkbugs, grasshoppers and three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. Entomologists are perplexed at high numbers of plantbugs in some beans.

Rain has fallen nearly everywhere in our coverage area. Showers delayed further wheat harvest and doublecrop planting.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

CROP REPORTS

Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist: "We're seeing some damage and stand reduction from three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. Fields planted in late March and early April are rapidly reaching R3 to R4 growth stages. Varieties that have been rated susceptible for

frogeye leaf spot should be monitored, especially under pivots. Treatments were recommended in some fields in Phillips County. Yellow-striped armyworm activity was noticed in St. Francis and Woodruff Counties, but damage was well below threshold."

Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.: "All our crops seem to be early. I've never seen corn tassel so soon. Some of our early planted MG IIIs, though, have struggled and, overall, aren't as in as good a shape as everything else."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "We've sprayed 15-20% of our soybeans for three-cornered alfalfa hoppers and grasshoppers. Beetles have been treated, too, in some older MG IVs. In the soybeans we check in Arkansas we've also sprayed stinkbugs in MG IIIs and MG IVs that are podding."

"With the grasshoppers, we were finding a bunch of young ones and figured it would be easier to control them now. A pyrethroid

shot did fair. Beetles are moving into our Arkansas beans. So far, leaf damage has been minor, and we haven't found pod damage yet.

"We're seeing more stinkbugs in corn and have treated about 20% of it, mainly fields of 40 acres or less that are catching movement out of bordering vegetation."

David Strohl, Aerial Applicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.: "Everybody finished wheat harvest and has a lot of soybean planting underway. The beans that are up look good. I don't know if it's the varieties or just the year, but everything is coming up vigorously and growing fast. We're putting out Weathermax on our farm, going with a 22 oz rate plus a 2 oz rate of Resource to pick up morningglory problems."

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "We're getting a few calls about high numbers of plantbugs in soybeans. People want to know whether to treat, and I'm afraid

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we can't give them a good answer. Studies done 15-20 years ago indicate they don't damage the crop, but that was before early season production systems. We've also never seen numbers this high. I'm hearing about isolated cases where there were too many in 25 sweeps to count."

Robert Wells, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Monticello, Ark.: "We've already sprayed a few fields for stinkbugs. We're trying to do some Quadris applications at the R3-R4 stage and included an insecticide where needed. We've had a tremendous number of plantbugs in soybeans and decided to take them out now so they wouldn't move into cotton later. This rain will help. Some growers already have watered beans 2-3 times."

Angus Catchot, Mississippi Extension Entomologist: "We've gotten a few reports of heavy plantbugs in blooming soybeans. I haven't seen this pressure, myself. They do feed like stinkbugs and can work on blooms and seeds. High numbers can be damaging, but research is sketchy on the subject. There's no good definition of what constitutes high numbers in beans."

Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.: "A few acres of our earlier planted MG IIIs and MG IVs are acting as a trap crop for stinkbugs. There were enough of them to have an effect on the crop, and we treated."

Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist: "Our insect situation has moderated. We're seeing fewer this week than last week. But, be advised, a lot of egg masses are turning up, so stinkbugs are coming. "We've pretty much worked out our approach for fungicides in research verification fields. In our

MG IVs planted prior to April 20 we'll apply a fungicide between R5 and R6. It targets late-season cercospera and, hopefully, minimize frogeye. This is aimed at maintaining seed quality. In the last 4-5 years in our early planted soybeans we've seen cercospera lead to premature defoliation. Without photosynthate, seeds can't mature. These green beans cause docking. You don't gain yield but do maintain quality.

"It's not too early to be thinking about this. A lot of this crop will essentially be done in 30-40 days. If you remember red blotching on pods, that's cercospera, and it hits late. It's much worse on early planted beans. In the verification fields we'll probably go with thiophanate methyl, which is a generic equivalent of Topsin-M. MSU and LSU have good data on a tankmix of Quadris and Topsin-M, but we're leaning toward this approach on the early beans because it's less expensive.

"Admittedly, we don't have a lot of data. But after discussions among all of us in the verification program and reviewing previous results, this seems like a reasoned approach.

"For our MG IVs and MG Vs planted after April 20 we will pretty much do a blanket shot of 4 oz/acre of Quadris and 2 oz/acre of Dimilin, and we'll treat at R3. We have ample data to back up this approach in the later planted beans. We might make this application on our dryland fields, depending on moisture conditions and cropping history. But it's a definite on irrigated beans planted after April 20."

David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist: "We probably got more growth out of the crop than in the 3 previous weeks combined. The crop really jumped, and it lost that pale green cast once roots dried out.

"There are isolated cases of

stinkbug spraying. Some of this is where growers treated parts of fields that adjoined woods.

"We're gearing up for fungicides. Due to the rain, I don't think anyone has had an opportunity to spray. These are mainly insurance applications. I haven't heard of significant symptomology from cercospera or aerial blight. Out of 9 research verification fields, only one shows a trace of aerial blight.

"We'll probably do a reduced-rate combination of Topsin-M and Quadris. That will be a half-pound of Topsin-M and 4 oz/acre of Quadris. It will probably be the main treatment we see across the board. There's at least one generic in the Topsin-M niche, but we have absolutely no data on it."

Grover Shannon, University of Missouri Soybean Breeder, Portageville, Mo.: "About half the wheat was out by Saturday, but weekend rains shut down most harvest. Growers who didn't get significant rain Saturday or Sunday probably picked up showers today (Tuesday). Wheat beans that already were planted are making good stands. Compared to last year, wheat yields have been disappointing for some growers.

"Earlier planted beans are canopying and setting pods. You can see pods really popping out on early planted MG IIIs. A lot of MG IVs are at full bloom and have pretty good height."

Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist: "We've had too much rain and are still trying to finish planting. There have been scattered showers for the last week or so. In some counties we're going to have a lot of late beans that aren't wheat beans. Wheat harvest moved along pretty good for a few days. But the rain has shut that down now, too."