

S152 Crop Insects of Kansas

Field guide to important arthropod pests and beneficials affecting major crops in Kansas. Descriptions, basic biology, type of damage, and notes on management practices. Print only. 154-page, spiral bound, color. Entomology will furnish five copies per county.

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Crop Insects *of* Kansas

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Wheat is a unique crop because it is planted in the fall and harvested the next summer. This presents several management challenges that do not apply to other field crops. Probably the most important practice before planting is destruction of volunteer wheat. Most wheat pests, including diseases, use this “green bridge” between last season’s crop and the new wheat crop to survive. Planting date is also important because fields planted later generally have a much better opportunity of avoiding pest infestations.

Army Cutworm

Euxoa auxiliaris (Grote) – *See alfalfa*

Army cutworm is a late winter to early spring pest that occurs sporadically in the western half of Kansas. Larvae are dark brown with faint stripes and are one of the few worms active during the winter.

Biology: Adult moths lay eggs in soil in the fall. The brown, faintly striped larvae hatch during the fall and early winter. Larvae begin feeding during the winter when temperatures rise a few degrees above freezing. They hide in loose soil at the base of plants, emerging to feed in the evening.

Damage: Small larvae chew “windowpane” holes in leaves that often go unnoticed unless plants are carefully inspected. As larvae become larger they consume entire leaves. Unlike some other cutworms, they only consume green aboveground foliage. When populations are significant, fields fail to “green-up” in the spring because of their feeding.

Management: Insecticides are the main management option for this pest. Frequent field inspection during warm periods in February, March, and early April is strongly encouraged, particularly when preceded by a dry fall. Moisture availability, crop condition, and regrowth potential are all factors influencing potential losses to this pest. Fields planted late under dry conditions with poor tillering

