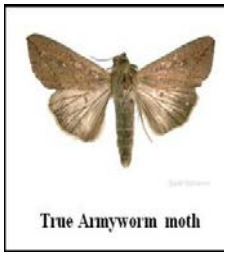
Logan Ag News

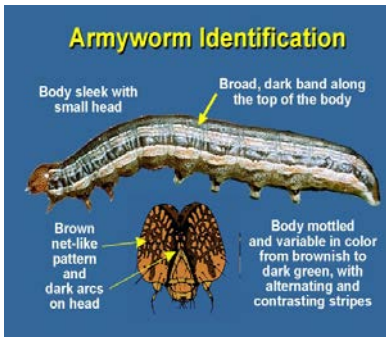
May 2017

Mild Winter Has Armyworm Moths On The Move

A milder than normal winter in southern regions of the U.S. has armyworm moths on the move northward about a month earlier than normal. Midwestern entomologists report large moth flights in traps. These moths will lay eggs in grassy vegetation (wheat, grass hay, cereal rye cover crop). The eggs hatch into larvae in mid-May. Armyworm larvae are voracious feeders, and can devastate corn, wheat, sorghum, and other grass crops quickly.


True Armyworm moth

Scouting for armyworm larvae feeding should begin within 2 weeks (by mid-May). Feeding damage often begins at field borders, and is first found on lower leaves of corn and wheat. Armyworms feed at night (similar to cutworms), but can often be found just below the soil surface around damaged plants. Look for the characteristic white-bordered orange stripe down the side of the armyworm. When



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LOCATIONS

* Griggsville, IL 217-833-2375; 1-800-LOGAN AG
* Pitsburg, OH 937-692-5181 (JACK BAKER)
* Paris, MO 660-327-1111 (DEAN OSBORN, MEGAN MORGAN)

www.LOGANAG.com

Spring Gas Price Bump

Have you noticed that gas prices at the pump always get a spring bump? It's true, and historically prices peak around Memorial Day. Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration collected from 2000 through 2016 shows spring gas prices increase 40.7¢ per gallon on average from the first week of February to their seasonal spring peak. Gas prices increased during each year of the study, ranging from 20¢ per gallon in 2003 to $1.13 per gallon in 2008. While most believe oil companies raise prices for summer-drive season, seasonal demand is only one factor behind the increase. The price of crude oil always plays a major factor in fuel price increases. Other factors involved include refinery maintenance and the switch to summer-blend fuel required by the Clean Air Act Amendments enacted in 2000.

U.S. refineries are geared up to produce more gasoline than diesel fuel to feed the high level of gas demand in this country. Maintenance schedules at refineries revolve around gasoline demand which is always lowest in January and February. As such, refinery maintenance or "turnaround" is scheduled during these months. About 25% of the nation's 141 refineries schedule turnaround on a staggered basis each year to minimize the impact on overall supply. Turnaround, depending on whether the refinery experiences a partial or total shutdown, typically requires 1 to 4 weeks provided no outstanding issues are incurred.

The transition to summer-blend gasoline (lower Reid vapor pressure) occurs during the April-June period each year. Higher Reid vapor pressure gasoline evaporates more easily, and is used in cold weather months to aid engine starting. Lower Reid vapor pressure fuels are used in summer months to reduce emissions and smog. Additionally, the number of gasoline specifications to meet various state and/or federal requirements increases from only a few during cold winter months to 14 during the summer months. To ensure no supply shortages, refiners must produce enough required gasoline product for each area of the country. That process reduces the gallons of gasoline produced from each barrel of oil and increases production cost. This combination of factors adds as much as 15¢ per gallon to the price of fuel.

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high populations of armyworms are present and all plant leaves are stripped in a given location, they may move in "army-like" numbers to another field.

If armyworms are present, many foliar insecticides are labeled for control. Treatment is advised in corn when 25% or more of the plants are damaged and larvae are present. In wheat, look for 4 or more larvae per square foot and less than 2%-3% "cut" heads. Apply insecticide to wheat in late afternoon using at least 15 gallons water per acre (20 GPA preferred) for optimal coverage and control.

Syngenta Corn Litigation Moves To Bellwether Trials

Recent rulings in U.S. District Court in Kansas regarding the Syngenta corn lawsuit rejected plaintiffs' nationwide class action claim but enabled attorneys to continue seeking overall damages related to the introduction of Agrisure Viptera corn prior to Chinese import approval. The first bellwether, or "test" trial, is scheduled to begin in Kansas in early June. A separate case involving Minnesota farmers (many farmers who have engaged attorneys to file individual lawsuits will be interested in this case) is slated to begin in state court during late April. In the Minnesota bellwether trial, an individual farmer seeks more than $150,000 in damages. Settlement value of cases is not likely to be determined before the parties try a series of test cases to set the settlement value.

The Kansas ruling enables plaintiffs' attorneys to seek punitive damages from Syngenta in addition to lost revenue from corn sales claimed as a result of China's rejection of U.S. corn shipments in 2013.

Premium Foliar Improves Corn And Soybean Yields

As grain yield improves, the plant's demand for small amounts of micronutrients increases. **Logan Agri-Yield™ Premium Foliar** supplies a balanced mix of micronutrients to ensure optimal plant growth and help defend against stresses incurred during the growing season.

In 2016 Beck's Practical Farm Research trials, an equivalent formulation of Premium Foliar applied at V4 corn growth stage increased yield by an amazing **5.7 bushels** per acre. Over the course of a 3-year study at Beck's, the average return on investment in corn exceeded $18 per acre! Greater yield increases were noted when growth regulators such as RyzUp® SmartGrass were included in the tank mixture. In a 4-year soybean study, the equivalent formulation of Premium Foliar increased average yield by **1.7 bushels** per acre along with an average ROI of more than $14 per acre!

Get the most from your crops with *Premium Foliar*!

Agri-Yield is a trademark of Logan Agri-Service, Inc. RyzUp is a trademark of Valent USA.

Early Stage Corn Growth And Development

Weeds, insects, and diseases are issues that impact corn during its early growth stages. Timely scouting and prompt attention to problems helps corn achieve its maximum yield potential.

EMERGENCE (VE): Watch for white grubs, wireworms, cutworms, seedling blight, soil crusting, and flea beetles. Emergence occurs in as little as 4-5 days after planting and up to 14 days in cool or dry conditions.

V3: Watch for Anthracnose leaf spot, cutworms, herbicide injury, excessive grass and weed pressure (remove grass before 2"; weeds before 3"-4"). First corn leaf has rounded tip; all new leaves have pointed tips. One new leaf occurs every 4-5 days in May, and every 3-4 days in June until tassel.

V6: Growing point is above ground. Some herbicides require directed (drop) application. All leaves, tassel, and up to 8 ear shoots are formed inside the stalk. The potential number of kernel rows around the ear (girth) is determined, but rows can be reduced by stress factors. Look for micronutrient deficiency symptoms (sulfur, zinc), as well as macronutrient deficiency symptoms (NPK), and correct immediately. Final herbicide trips should be made, growth regulators and early fungicides should be applied, and consideration given to sidedress nitrogen application (urea or UAN) if needed to complete fertility programs.

Scouting Tips For Early Planted Soybeans

Many soybeans were planted before late April rains occurred. Emergence usually takes 5 to 10 days, and happens when the seed absorbs 50% of its weight in water. Scouting for Bean Leaf beetle should begin at the VC growth stage (cotyledon). It is important for the plant to retain its cotyledon leaves as they supply nutrients during the first full week of growth.

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V1-V3: Following the unifoliate leaves, each new set of leaves are trifoliates (3 leaf clusters). V stages correspond to the number of trifoliate leaves. The photo to the right is V2 (2 trifoliates). New trifoliates emerge every 3-5 days until V5, and then emerge every 2-3 days until full pod. Scout for Bean Leaf beetle. Layered residual post-emerge herbicides should be applied by V3 (about 21 days after planting).

V5: Plants are approximately 12" tall at V5, and the total number of nodes the plant can produce is established. The photo to the right shows the 5th trifoliate at the top of the plant and the individual leaflets are not touching each other. Flowering will occur in approximately 7 days. Final weed control measures should be applied, and growers should scout for Bean Leaf beetles, Japanese beetles, aphids, and initial diseases such as Frogeye Leaf Spot.

Final Comments

Edward L. Logan, Logan Ag President

Nearly all corn acres are planted in western Illinois and eastern Missouri, as well as many acres of soybeans. To the north in Illinois, minimal planting is reported. With late April showers providing a break from fieldwork, use this opportunity to begin scouting corn and soybean fields for insects and weed escapes. Discuss any issues with your Logan Ag crop specialist.

Logan Ag has a supply of seed corn and soybeans available for acres yet to be planted. Choose from Lewis, AgriGold, Credenz, Stine, and Mycogen brands.

Watch alfalfa fields for weevil damage. We've had some early reports of feeding. If weevils are present and it's time to cut hay, apply insecticide after bales are removed to control surviving larvae and enable rapid regrowth. Following the first cutting is an ideal time to apply nutrients. I recommend 100 LB DAP + 350 LB potash + 15 LB sulfur + 10 LB boron as a maintenance application.

If you plan to use any of the new dicamba formulations in soybeans, please review labeled tank-mix partners and application guidelines on these websites.
www.engeniatankmix.com
www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com
www.fexapanapplicationrequirements.com
We have inventory of all labeled dicamba products. Labels change frequently, and new DRA's (drift reduction agents) have gained approval recently. DRA's must be used whenever dicamba products are applied. Logan Ag has several approved adjuvants available. Dicamba manufacturers have spray nozzle programs for those needing new tips for application rigs. Review your needs and contact one of our crop specialists soon.

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Beginning in late February and extending through August, U.S. demand for gasoline increases by a few percentage points monthly. The U.S. Energy Information Service indicates a 1% monthly increase in demand for gasoline requires an additional 90,000 barrels per day production (nearly 3.8 million gallons – the capacity of a small refinery). In 2016, gas demand in June was 11.5% higher than in January. The increased demand puts great pressure on the refining system and the pipeline network where fuel travels at the blinding speed of 4 MPH. Any disruption of supply creates the immediate possibility of spot outages and price increases.

FUEL FACTS…
- ✓ *The largest U.S. refinery has a capacity of 600,000 barrels per day.*
- ✓ *Fuel travels through the network of U.S. pipelines at 4 MPH (about 100 miles per day)*

Each fluctuation in the price of crude oil also impacts gasoline prices. On average, an increase of $1 per barrel raises prices by 2-3¢ per gallon.

Do your part to help keep fuel prices down by filling up with ethanol blended gasoline products every time. Current Renewable Fuels Standard requirements utilize more than 5 billion bushels of corn annually for ethanol production. Join the effort and support E15 ethanol blends! Increasing the percentage of ethanol from 10% to 15% can use more than 7.5 billion bushels of corn each year. Think how the extra market for corn could improve your bottom line!

May Funny

A magician worked on a cruise ship and performed the same act for years. The audience liked him, and there was a different group each week so he did not have to worry about changing his magic tricks. However, the captain's parrot sat in the back of the showroom each night, and had figured out how the tricks worked. The parrot began to give the magic secrets away to the audience. When the magician made a bouquet of flowers disappear, the parrot screeched, "Behind his back! Behind his back!" The magician was embarrassed and annoyed, but could not do anything because it's the captain's parrot.

On one of the week-long cruises, the large ship hit a reef during one of the magic shows and sprang a leak. The ship was sinking rapidly. The magician managed to grab a life preserver and held onto it for dear life, floating away as the ship disappeared below water. The parrot circled above and finally perched himself of a corner of the life preserver. The magician and parrot drifted for three days, never saying a word to each other. On the fourth day, the parrot broke the silence and said, "OK, I give up. Where did you hide the ship?"

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