

Soybean Insects II

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Adult



Larva

1. Dectes Stem Borer



3. Whiteflies



4. Soybean Aphid



2. Soybean Thrips



Nymph



Adult

5. Potato Leafhopper



6. Twospotted Spider Mite



7a. Green Stink Bug



7b. Brown Stink Bug

Insects**Identification**

1. Dectes stem borer

Dectes texanus texanus
LeConte

Adults: Gray beetle with somewhat flattened body, black- and gray-banded antennae that are longer than the body, about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long. Present in June through September. Adults do not injure soybean.
Larvae: Creamy, white body with an “accordion-like” appearance, orange-red head, legless, about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long at maturity. Feeding damage occurs July through September. Larvae tunnel within the main stem, consuming pith tissue. As the larvae mature, they move to the base of the stem and girdle the interior portion of the stem approximately 2 to 4 inches above the soil line. This feeding predisposes the plant to lodging.

2. Soybean thrips

Sericothrips variabilis

Adults: Slender, with alternating dark and light transverse bands, about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long. Feeding damage occurs May through September. They cause injury by rupturing the cell wall of leaf cells and withdrawing plant juices. Leaves may appear silvery as a result. Injury most common on seedlings or young vegetative plants.

3. Whiteflies: Family Aleyrodidae

Adults: Newly emerged adults are yellowish-white, later turning white as wax is deposited on the body and wings, and about $\frac{1}{25}$ inch long. Hold forewings close to and parallel to the body. Injure soybeans by removing sap, primarily feeding on the underside of soybean leaves. High populations may cause chlorotic spots, leaf discoloration, wilting, stunting, and dieback. Also produce honeydew which results in the secondary growth of fungi known as black sooty mold.

4. Soybean aphid

Aphis glycines Matsumura

Adults: Winged or wingless, light green to pale yellow in color with two black-tipped cornicles (“tail-pipes”) on the tip of the abdomen; less than $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long. Feeding damage may occur July through September. Injure soybeans by removing plant sap. Injury symptoms may include yellow, distorted leaves and stunted plants. Soybean plants are most vulnerable to aphid injury during the early reproductive stages. Heavy aphid infestations during these stages can cause reduced pod and seed counts. A charcoal-colored fungus, sooty mold, may grow on aphid honeydew on heavily infested plants. May transmit several viral diseases, including soybean mosaic.

5. Potato leafhopper

Empoasca fabae (Harris)

Adults: Wedge-shaped and pale green with tiny white spots on and just behind the head; about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long.
Nymphs: Wingless, otherwise similar to adults. Newly hatched nymphs are tiny and pale; develop wing-like outgrowths as they pass through five molts.
Feeding damage may occur May through September. Both adult and nymphal stages injure soybean by inserting their piercing-sucking mouthparts and removing plant liquids. Symptoms include distorted leaf veins and leaf curling. Severely injured leaves may change from green to yellow to brown as they deteriorate, causing a symptom known as “hopperburn.”

6. Twospotted spider mite

Tetranychus urticae (Koch)

Adults: Oval, light green to straw-colored with two dark spots on the back; about 0.015 inch long. Mite populations may reach damaging levels during prolonged hot, dry periods in the summer. Injure soybeans by piercing plant cells with their mouthparts and sucking the plant juices. Injury symptoms include yellow or white leaf spotting, leaf drop, accelerated senescence and pod shattering. Produce large amounts of webbing on the undersides of leaves.

7. Stink Bugs**a. Green Stink Bug**

Acrosternum hilare (Say)

Adults: Bright green, antennal segments with black bands and a pointed spine on the second ventral abdominal segment protruding between the bases of the hind legs, about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long.

b. Brown Stink Bug

Euschistus servus (Say)

Adults: Brown, with yellow or light green underside and rounded pronotum (shoulders); about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long.

Stink bug feeding damage occurs May through September. Cause injury by puncturing the tissues of soybean plants with their mouthparts and sucking up the plant fluids. Prefer to feed on young tender growth and developing seeds. Dark spots appear on the plant where the mouthparts puncture the soybean tissues. Symptoms include delayed leaf maturation, foliage retention and proliferation of abnormal leaflets and pods close to the main stem. Injury during early seed formation may result in shriveled, deformed, undersized and even aborted seeds.

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