

FIELD CROPS NEWSLETTER

Feb/March 2018



2018 Auxin Herbicide Label Changes

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Many of you are aware of the issues with dicamba off-target movement that occurred across the country last year. Because of those issues, the EPA recently revised labels for dicamba products registered for application to Xtend soybean and XtendFlex cotton. One of many new requirements is mandatory training for all applicators prior to use in 2018 (even if trained in 2017). The Federal labels for 2,4-D products registered for Enlist crops (Enlist One, Enlist Duo) do not have a training requirement. However, NC 24(c) SLN labels for Enlist One and Enlist Duo will specify mandatory training; this is an attempt for North Carolina to continue to stay ahead of potential issues with drift complaints.

Another change this year is that every person on the farm that will be applying the herbicide(s) must attend the training.

Attached is the schedule for 2018 training. Locations were selected on the basis of acreage and meeting facilities and attempts were made to spread them out as much as possible.

NCDA will have personnel at each meeting to swipe pesticide licenses. That is how participation will be recorded. There will be recertification credit in categories N, O, D, and X. NCDA is handling all of this; you do not need to request credit or do any paperwork.

Several states are offering online training only. Surveys were conducted at the 2017 meetings and one question was preference for online vs face-to-face training. There was an overwhelming preference (95%) to have a real person present the training. So, NC will not offer online training.

Cereal Leaf Beetle in Wheat

Cereal Leaf Beetle (CLB) is the most serious insect pest of small grains in North Carolina. Adult beetles will arrive in wheat fields in March and are about 3/16-inch-long with bluish-black heads and wing covers. The legs and front segment of the thorax are rust-red (Pic A).

Larvae usually begin to appear in April and are slug-like, have orangish-yellow bodies and brownish-black heads and legs. However, the body coloration is usually obscured by a black mucus and fecal matter held on the body, giving them a shiny black, wet appearance (Pic B). The easiest way to notice them in a field is when you walk through the field and black “smudges” show up on your pants.

CLB adult feeding does not injure the wheat crop. Larvae, however, eat long strips of green tissue from between leaf veins and may skeletonize entire leaves (Pic C). Severely defoliated fields take on a white “frosted” cast when lot of green tissue is lost on the upper leaves.

Wheat fields should be scouted for CLB eggs and larvae in April when wheat reaches the “flag leaf” stage. If there are more than 25 eggs plus larvae found on 100 tillers an insecticide should be applied as soon as possible. This will kill the CLB population before the larvae can skeletonize leaves and reduce yield. Baythroid XL, Sevin XLR Plus, Warrior, Warrior II, Karate Z, Lannate, Cobalt Advanced, Tomkstone, Declare, Silencer, and Mustang Max are all listed in the 2017 North Carolina Agricultural Chemical Manual.



Pic A



Pic B



Pic C

Scouting and Managing Stink Bugs in Seedling Corn

— *Written By Dominic Reisig*

Stink bugs can injure corn during the seedling stage, leading to tillering, stunting, and sometimes plant death. In order to prevent this, you must scout and spray at the correct time. Also, more stink bugs this year appear to have survived the winter compared to last year. The purpose of this article is to provide you the tools to do this. In order to do this properly, you must understand the biology of the insect.

Stink bug biology as it relates to corn. Stink bugs begin to emerge from overwintering and move during March and April. This does not happen all at once and there are still stink bugs in overwintering sites right now (late



April). The species of concern in seedling corn is brown stink bug. These insects overwinter in underneath plant litter and forest floors. They can move directly from overwintering sites into corn, but might stop off on shrubs, weeds, or wheat before moving into corn. Stink bugs cannot reach the growing point of corn until it reaches V3 or V4, since it is underneath the soil. In contrast, billbugs, which can cause similar injury, can reach the growing point as seedlings are spiking. Once the corn is at a stage where stink bugs can reach this growing point, they might move into fields. An exception might be in fields where the furrow didn't close behind the press wheels, allowing the stink bug access below the soil. This can only be identified through scouting.

Where to scout? Focus your efforts on the edge of corn fields near good overwintering sites, such as woods, grass, or with lots of residue. Because soybeans are a good late season host, numbers can be much higher in corn fields planted behind soybeans near good overwintering sites. Stink bugs will not move into fields before V3. Make sure that you walk into the field, since they prefer to be near the edges. Arun Babu (NCSU graduate student) has recently found that stink bugs taken from overwintering sites flew a little over ½ a mile on average in a day. So these insects can be pretty mobile.

Look at the base of the seedlings where the stink bugs feed. We don't have a great threshold for stink bugs in seedling corn. One reason for this is that plant stunting or mild tillering is not as severe as plant death or major tillering. We'd be nervous if there were a stink bug on every 10 plants, or so.



Suckering that resulted from stink bug feeding.

When should you spray? Stink bug movement doesn't happen all at once and they can move in and out of fields. My recommendation, however, is to spray once they show up, rather than waiting for the last stink bug to arrive. Once the corn plant reaches V6, the growing point moves up past the soil line and stink bugs probably can't cause much injury until the primary ear is determined (within a couple weeks prior to tasseling). So, consider seedling corn susceptible to stink bug from V3 to V6.

What can you spray? Pyrethroids can be very effective, especially early season. Don't count on much residual, since the insecticide needs to contact the bug.

** In 2017, there were pockets of Onslow County with high populations of stink bugs. While I suspect our cold winter will severely decrease any populations from over-wintering, be sure to scout your fields regularly!
-Melissa**

Upcoming Events

Grain Production Meeting

Feb. 5, 2018

5:30 pm- 8:00 pm

Onslow County Extension Office

RSVP to Kate 910.455.5873

Commercial Poultry Growers Meeting

Feb. 7, 2018

Registration: 9:30 – 10:00 am

Program: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

RSVP by Feb. 5 to 919.545.8304

Lunch provided

Duplin County Extension Office

3 Hours of animal waste credits offered

Pesticide “V” Re-certification

Feb 22, 2018

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Onslow County Extension

RSVP to Kate 910.455.5873

2018 Auxin Stewardship Training

March 8, 2018

10:00 am

Jones County Civic Center

2 hrs. of pesticide credits offered

See insert for other dates and locations

Mailing List Update

Due to budget cuts and saving paper, this newsletter will be converting to an electronic version in the future. Please call Kate Holt at (910) 455-5873 or email me, Melissa_huffman@ncsu.edu, with your name, email address, and crops that you are interested in receiving information about.