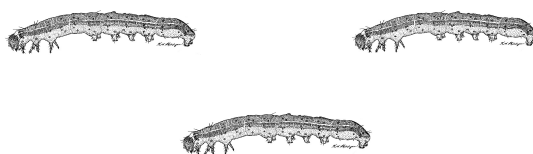


Bug-Wise



No. 9

August 11, 2010

Office: 1-662-325-2085

Fall Armyworms in Home Lawns, Athletic Fields, and Other Places: Unusually heavy fall armyworm pressure continues to occur in pastures and hay fields throughout the state. Producers need to continue to check fields carefully and often and have their spray rigs ready to spray! With the sporadic rainfall and unusually hot conditions the state has experienced, few producers can afford to lose a cutting of hay to armyworms. Current recommendations for controlling fall armyworms in pastures and hay fields can be found in Bug-Wise Newsletter number 6 of 2010. You can find this quickly by going to www.msucare.com, clicking on "newsletters", then clicking on "Bug-Wise" and scanning the list.

Home Lawns: Outbreaks of fall armyworms are also occurring in home lawns across the state, but the recommendations for controlling fall armyworms in home lawns are a bit different from those for pastures and hay fields. In particular, note that Sevin (carbaryl) is no longer labeled for broadcast application to home lawns. Sevin can still be used as an outdoor perimeter spray around buildings and as a spot spray for control of fleas and other pests, but not as a broadcast spray to an entire lawn.

Fall armyworms prefer bermudagrass lawns, but they sometimes occur on other grass species. They especially like turf that is well-fertilized and irrigated, which means that turf that is highly managed--and consequently has a lower tolerance for damage--is more likely to be attacked. Bermudagrass turf that is just being established, either by sprigging, seeding, or as sod, is also more likely to be attacked and needs to be checked often. Treatments recommended for control of fall armyworms in home lawns are shown below. When treating for fall armyworms, delay watering or mowing for at least 24 hours. Note that granular insecticides are not recommended for fall armyworms because the granules fall past the feeding caterpillars.

Insecticide Sprays for Control of Fall Armyworms in Home Lawns *

Insecticide/formulation	Brand Name	Rate per 1000 sq. ft.
Bifenthrin (0.3% concentrate)	Ortho Bug-B-Gone Max Lawn and Garden Insect Killer	6 – 12 fl. Oz.
Cyfluthrin (0.75% concentrate)	Bayer Power Force Multi-Insect Killer	6 fl. Oz.
Lambda-cyhalothrin (0.5% concentrate)	Triazicide Soil & Turf Insect Killer Concentrate	2 fl. Oz.
Permethrin (38% concentrate)	Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Concentrate	0.4 - 0.8 fl. Oz.
Spinosad (0.5% concentrate)	Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer and Tent Caterpillar Spray	6 fl. Oz.

* This information is for preliminary planning purposes only. Be sure to carefully read the label of any product you plan to use and follow all label restrictions carefully.

Athletic Fields: Fall armyworms will also attack bermudagrass on sports fields, so coaches and grounds managers need to keep a careful eye on those ball fields. Paper wasps prey on fall armyworms; they chew them up and carry them back to the nest to feed their young. If you notice significant numbers of wasps flying over a field, consider this a cue to check for armyworms. Be especially careful when choosing insecticides to use on athletic fields. This is a sensitive site because children and athletes are often in close contact with the grass. Be sure the label of the product you choose to use allows use on athletic fields and note and comply with the re-entry interval. Wise turf managers will usually add an extra day or two to the re-entry interval specified on the label. Even though the label says “until spray has dried”, it is best not to allow play on a field the same day it was sprayed.

Insecticide Sprays for Control of Fall Armyworms on Athletic Fields *

Insecticide/formulation	Brand Name	Rate per 1000 sq. ft.	Re-entry Interval
Cyfluthrin (1 SC)	Tempo SC Ultra	0.135 – 0.27 fl. Oz.	Until spray dries
Deltamethrin (5 SC)	Deltagard T&O	0.2 – 0.4 fl. Oz.	Until spray dries
Permethrin (36% conc.)	Astro	0.4 – 0.8 fl. Oz.	Until spray dries
Indoxacarb (30 WDG)	Provaunt	0.046 – 0.092 oz.	Until spray dries

* This information is for preliminary planning purposes only. Be sure to carefully read the label of any product you plan to use and follow all label restrictions carefully.

Note: Products containing acephate (Orthene), chlorpyrifos (Dursban) or carbaryl (Sevin) **should not** be used on athletic fields. These are labeled for use on sod farms, but not athletic fields.

Other Places: Fall armyworms will continue to be present till frost and treatable infestations may also occur on levee banks and other erodible areas. Erodible areas where bermudagrass is just being established should be checked often. Wildlife food plots and early planted fields of winter grazing are also susceptible to fall armyworm damage. Fall armyworms can destroy a stand of emerging wheat or ryegrass before it ever becomes established. Check early-planted winter grazing and wildlife food plots often and be prepared to spray. Treatments labeled for use on pastures and hay fields can be used in these areas.

Of course golf course managers, sod farmers, and managers of commercial landscapes need to remain alert for fall armyworms as well. This pest can appear anywhere there is grass to eat.

Blake Layton, Extension Entomologist

This information is for educational and preliminary planning purposes only. Brand names mentioned in this publication are used as examples only. No endorsement of these products is intended. Other appropriately labeled products containing similar active ingredients should provide similar levels of control. Always read and follow the insecticide label.