

There are some control practices that include both cultural management and insecticide applications. After scouting, cutting the forage sorghum before the first week of aphid threshold density can prevent damage and also prevent subsequent increase in aphid density during regrowth. The most effective control of the sugarcane aphid is the use of insecticides, but their use might not be economically justifiable if the producer only has a small acreage due to the cost of application.



Infestations often begin at the bottom of the plant and work toward the top. Treatment thresholds have not been determined for sorghums used in forage production. There are very conservative recommendations when to treat the aphid infestation for grain sorghum. The recommended threshold for an insecticide application occurs when 20% of the infested leaves contains 50 or more aphid colonies per leaf or when 30% of the plants contain colonies of 100 or higher and there is heavy honeydew present in localized areas of the field. Once aphids are found, it is critical to scout fields twice per week to monitor infestations because they expand rapidly due to their reproductive cycle.

According to Dr. Blake Layton (Mississippi State University Extension Entomologist), the foliar insecticides available for forage crops include: Transform® WG and Sivanto® 200 SL. Transform® WG (sulfoxaflor, Dow AgroSciences) has a Section 18 emergency exemption and it can be applied at a rate of 0.75 to 1.5 oz/acre. The label allows for 2 applications of Transform WG® per season and not more than 3 oz per acre per forage crop. Sivanto® 200 SL (flupyradifurone, Bayer Crop Protection) has a Section 2(ee) recommendation and can be applied at a rate of 4 to 7 oz/acre. Growers must have a copy of the Section 18 label or Section 2(ee) and the full product label in their possession when mixing and applying the insecticide. Both Transform® and Sivanto® have a 7-day restriction on haying or grazing after application, meaning that grazing and mowing for hay are not allowed within seven days of application, and cattle must be removed from the field for that period of time. The use of these insecticides will require good coverage of the entire canopy, including the lower canopy. When applying these insecticides an application containing a volume of at least 10 gallons of water per acre is recommended. The use of pyrethroids are not recommended because they can kill beneficial insects and aphid populations have been shown to increase following a pyrethroid application. Check with your County Extension office for future insecticides update, availability, efficacy, and management beyond the 2015 growing season.

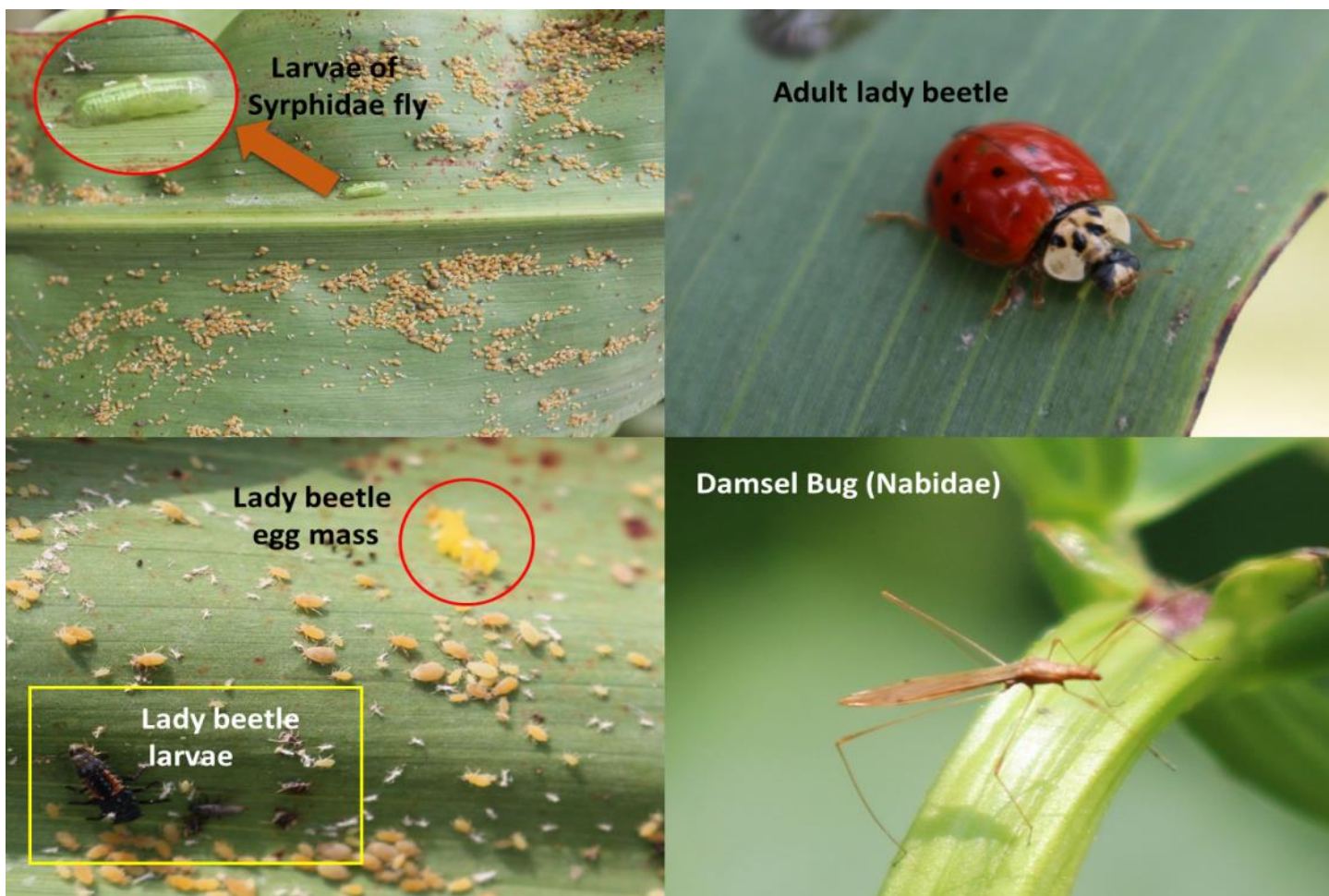


Figure 2. Important beneficial insects for suppressing aphids in summer annual forage crops.

In a silage situation, if the field is more than 50% infected, it is recommended to use the summer annual for grazing instead due to loss in plant sap containing sugars and leaf damage that makes the ensiling and fermentation process difficult. If leaf damage is increasing, using an intensive grazing management strategy such as strip grazing or mob grazing could be the best options to avoid yield losses. The honeydew produced and excreted by the sugarcane aphid is not harmful to livestock. If the black sooty mold is growing on the leaves, it may contribute to reduced forage palatability.



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For upcoming forage related events visit:

<http://forages.pss.msstate.edu/events.html>

September 15-17, 2015 – MS Grazing Land Coalition Initiative, Natchez, MS

September 23, 2015 – Cattlemen’s College, Prairie, MS

September 24, 2015 – Cattlemen’s College, Poplarville, MS

October 2, 2015 – Hay Contest Entries Due

October 27, 2015 – Southwest Mississippi Fall Forage Field Day, Meadville, MS

November 6, 2015 – Mississippi Forage & Grassland Conference, Newton, MS

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