K-STATE Research and Extension

Scouting Sugarcane Aphids

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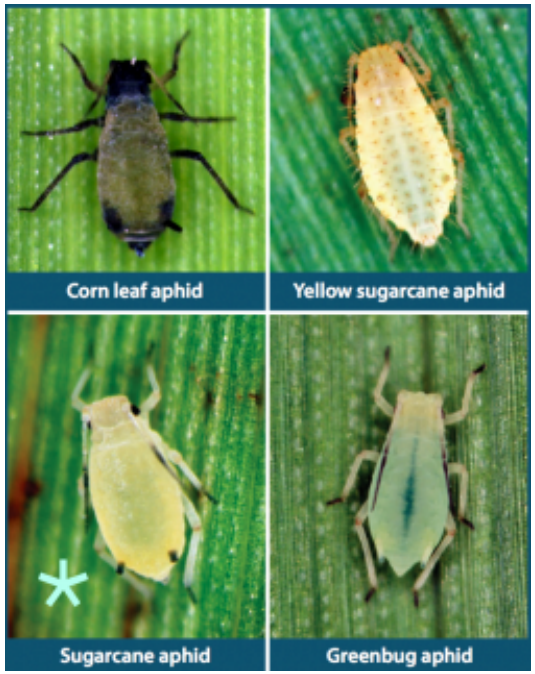
myFields www.myfields.info

Adult Sugarcane Aphid (*)



Winged Adult

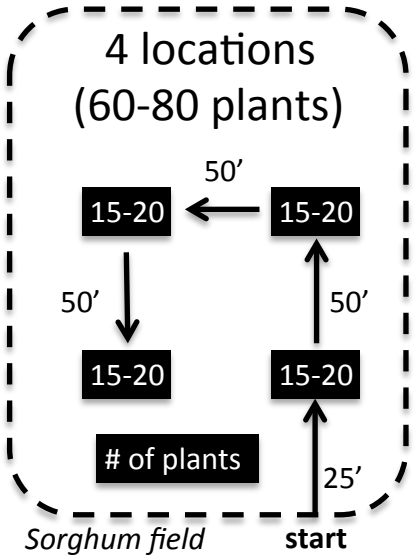
Information adapted from NTO-043, Bowling et al. (2015) Texas A&M AgriLife

Timing effective treatment to control ***sugarcane aphids*** (SCA) in sorghum depends on the size of the SCA population. To estimate the number of SCA in a field, follow these steps for scouting the field and use the **Sampling Protocol** (**below**) and % plants with honeydew (**on back**) to make treatment decisions.

First Detection: Is the Field at Risk?

Once a week, walk 25 feet into the field and examine plants along 50 feet of row (see right):

- If honeydew is present, look for SCA on the underside of a leaf above the honeydew.
- Inspect the underside of leaves from the upper and lower canopy from 15–20 plants per location.
- Sample each side of the field as well as sites near Johnsongrass and tall mutant plants.
- Check at least 4 locations per field for a total of 60–80 plants.



NOT Present?

If **no** SCA are present, or only a few wingless/winged aphids are on upper leaves, continue once-a-week scouting (**protocol above**).

or

Present?

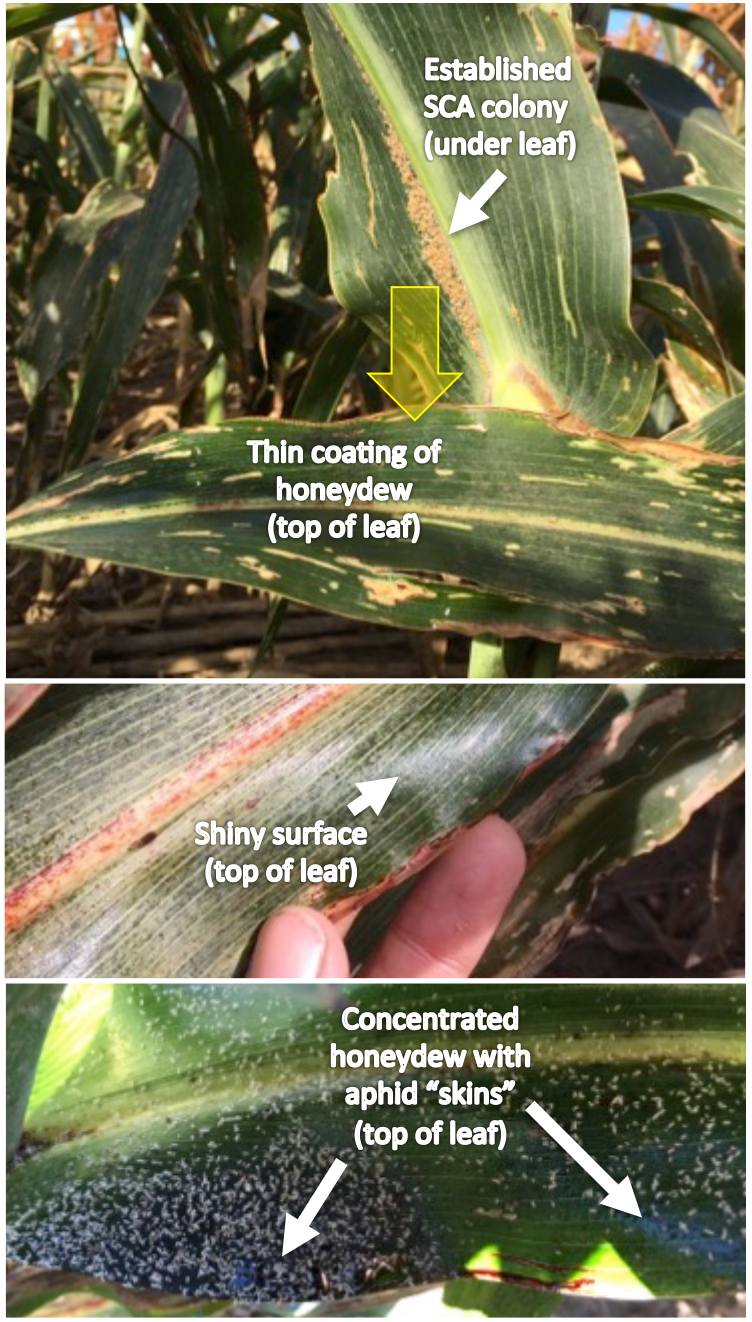
If SCA **are** found on lower or mid-canopy leaves, begin twice-a-week scouting. Use the Sampling Protocol (**above**) and % plants with honeydew (**on back**).

SCA Threshold by Growth Stage

Estimate the percentage (%) of infested plants with large amounts of sugarcane aphid (SCA) honeydew (see right) to help time foliar insecticides for SCA control on sorghum.

Growth Stage	Threshold
Pre-Boot	20% plants infested with localized area of heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies
Boot	20% plants infested with localized area of heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies
Soft Dough	30% plants infested with localized area of heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies
Dough	30% plants infested with localized area of heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies
Black Layer	Heavy Honeydew and established aphid colonies in head *only treat to prevent harvest problems **observe Preharvest intervals

Table courtesy of Angus Catchot at Mississippi State University



Learn more about sugarcane aphids at:
http://myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid