This weekend I was out in my yard at home and noticed some unusual holes in my flower bed. The holes were from birds digging into the soil to get a grub meal. Wherever I dug in the flower bed I would find grubs. So, I began to wonder if anyone has been having problems with them in any wheat fields.

We generally have issues with grub infestations in the fall, particularly, when fields are planted to continuous wheat for several years. In October of 2013, a field in Bailey county had a severe infestation which caused significant damage (note photo). Grubs this time of year are not a primary concern.

But, with the warm temperatures and based on my flower bed infestations, grubs could be active near the soil surface and possibly cause damage until they pupate before emerging as adults in May and June. Also, there is a possibility if an infested wheat field is planted back to corn or grain sorghum this spring there could be seedling stand losses. If no damage symptoms are found now, egg lay activity of the May or June beetle could increase larval infestations and damage to early fall planted wheat, if not rotating or fallowing the field. The photo of beetles illustrates the number of May or June Beetles that can be trapped in just one week with a Black Light trap. Beetles were captured in June of 2013 near Etter, TX.

Even if you have a issue, there are no insecticides labeled for use against white grubs in wheat and depending on grub size seed treatments of Gaucho® or Cruiser® may or may not

**Contents**

- White Grubs..........................1
- Sugarcane Aphid 2015 distribution..............2
- Corn Bt trait table for Southern Cotton Zone..................2

Anyone Finding White Grubs in Wheat

Photo courtesy of Monti Vandiver

[http://txppipm.blogspot.com](http://txppipm.blogspot.com) [https://twitter.com/TXPIPM](https://twitter.com/TXPIPM)
suppress the grub larvae. In times past, Lorsban® was once registered for grub control when chemigated, but it now only has a label for greenbug.

**Sugarcane Aphid (SCA) Current 2015 Distribution Map(s)**

Dr. Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist in Corpus Christi, has spent several weeks looking for sugarcane aphids this winter on Johnsongrass and sorghum from the Rio Grand Valley and even over to the San Angelo area. He has assembled maps that contain individual county records of when he found aphids and a composite map for the start of 2015 ([txscan.blogspot.com](http://txscan.blogspot.com)). As diligent as Dr. Bowling has been looking for the sugarcane aphid, we know there are still many counties that have not been checked and aphids may start to become active on Johnsongrass and any of the sorghum related plants as temperatures rise and plants start growing. Anytime you come across sugarcane aphids in counties that have not been reported for your county, please contact someone on the following list, ([http://txscan.blogspot.com/p/personnel-contact-list.html](http://txscan.blogspot.com/p/personnel-contact-list.html)) and/or collect some aphids in a ziplock bag or another container, let a contact person look at the aphids or take the aphids to your local county extension office.

**Corn Bt traits for the Southern Cotton Zone**

Pat Porter recently included a short write-up in the online Focus on South Plains Agriculture News site ([http://focusonagriculture.blogspot.com](http://focusonagriculture.blogspot.com)) about “The Handy Bt Trait Table(s)”. Our colleague Dr. Christine DiFonzo at Michigan State University has for many years produced this concise 2-page guide to Bt traits for corn in the corn production zone. The guide has always been appropriate for our Texas Panhandle counties under the corn zone. This year’s table can be located at [http://www.msuent.com/assets/pdf/28BtTraitTable2015.pdf](http://www.msuent.com/assets/pdf/28BtTraitTable2015.pdf). Now, Chris has made a version of the corn Bt traits specific to the southern cotton growing region. This includes all of Texas and Southeastern states under the cotton zone. Please note that any questions or comments should be directed to either Pat Porter (Lubbock, p porter@tamu.edu) or Ed Bynum (Amarillo, EBynum@ag.tamu.edu).

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