

Applied Research Report

Effect of Thrips (*Caliothrips phasiolii*) on Soybeans at Bloom

Stephen Biles, Extension Agent - IPM for Calhoun, Refugio and Victoria Counties
Joe Janak, County Extension Agent – AG

Cooperator: Keith Johnson, Victoria County

Summary

A trial was conducted with the purpose of evaluating the effect thrips populations had on drought stressed soybeans. Acephate and Dimethoate insecticides were applied and thrips population was assessed 3 days after application (DA-A) and damage ratings were made 11 DA-A. Poor control was achieved with both insecticides and they would not be recommended for thrips management based on these results. The thrips caused significant damage but additional studies should be conducted to further evaluate this effect and determine best management practices.

Materials and Methods

A trial was established on 27 July 2009 for the purpose of determining the effect of thrips on Soybeans. The trial was laid out as a randomized complete block with four replications. Plots were 6 rows wide and 50 feet long.

Treatments were as follows:

1. Untreated
2. Acephate (0.75 lb/Acre)
3. Dimethoate (8 oz/Acre)

The thrips species was determined to be *Caliothrips phasiolii*. Insect counts were made by placing three trifoliates in a jar of soapy water from each plot. In the lab, the leaves were rinsed to dislodge thrips into the soapy water solution which was then filtered on coffee filters. Thrips were counted under magnification using a stereoscope.

Results and Discussion

Thrips control obtained with the Acephate application was not as good as desired with only 82% control achieved (Table 1). The dimethoate application resulted in very poor control. Eleven days after application, damage ratings indicate that even poor insect control provided some level of benefit. However, the drought conditions combined with the thrips populations resulted in the trial being abandoned after 11 days, thus, no yield data were obtained.

Table 1. Thrips populations at 3 days after application and damage rating at 11 days after application for insecticide applications (Victoria County, 2009).

		7/27/2009	8/4/2009
		thrips/leaf 3 DA-A	Damage Rating* 11 DA-A
Untreated Check		62.5 a	3.9 a
ACEPHATE	0.75 LB/A	11.0 b	3.2 b
Dimethoate	8 OZ/A	45.3 a	3.4 b
LSD (P=.10)		30.6	0.36
Standard Deviation		22.27	0.26
CV		56.22	7.43
Treatment Prob(F)		0.0431	0.0156

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.10, LSD)

*Damage Rating: 1=good, 5=poor.

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