

INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRAIN SORGHUM (MILO)- 2012

ENT-24

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Producing sorghum (milo) for grain is important in many Kentucky farm management systems. Grain sorghum is subject to infestation by a variety of insect pests. However, following a few good production practices can greatly reduce insect pest infestations.

- To establish need and estimate proper timing for grain sorghum insect control, fields should be sampled at least weekly from emergence to maturity.
- Plant at the proper time, usually as soon as possible after the soil temperature reaches 65° - 70°F. (See AGR-18-Grain & Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky). Planting too early may result in infestation by greenbugs and chinch bugs, while late planting will increase problems with sorghum midge, fall armyworm, and sorghum webworm.
- Do not plant in fields infested with Johnson grass.
- Do not make sequential plantings- Strive for even bloom in fields.
- Know the difference between pest and beneficial insects.

Check with your County Extension Agent for Agriculture about training in pest identification, damage thresholds and control measures (Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Education).

Additional Information

In addition to these recommendations the producer is advised to review **IPM-5, Kentucky IPM Manual for Grain Sorghum**. This publication will provide information about identification, life cycle, scouting techniques, and threshold values for the common pests of grain sorghum. This manual may be found on the IPM web pages at: <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/IPM/ipm.htm>.

Additionally, you may find useful information about a specific pest in our ENTFACT series. These fact sheets may be found on the Entomology web pages at: <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts.htm>
These and other publications and educational materials are also available to the producer through your County Extension Office.

Using Insecticides Properly

Products listed in this publication are not the only products labeled for use. These products are commonly used and generally available in Kentucky. You may find many other products with different trade names containing the same active ingredient. Be sure the product you choose is labeled for the intended use and is registered in Kentucky.

This publication is an abbreviated guide; it is not a substitute for a product label. Before using any pesticide, read the entire label. Note the sections containing directions for use, restrictions, and the warning and precautionary statements. The user takes full responsibility for any deviation from label directions. The user should be thoroughly familiar with the proper safety equipment required (i.e. goggles, protection suits, respirators, etc.) to afford maximum protection. It is a good idea for all persons to know exactly what is being applied and at what rate.

Chemicals listed in **bold italics** are **Restricted Use** pesticides. Persons buying, using, or supervising the use of these pesticides must be certified as competent to do so. Certification training is available from your county extension agent for agriculture. Check <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/PAT/welcome.htm> for information on certification.

Insecticide Use for Plant Health Response

It is my position that I only recommend the use of insecticides to reduce, prevent, avoid, or mitigate insect pests or problems related to insect activity (such as the vectoring of certain diseases). I do not encourage nor recommend the use of insecticides for plant health responses in the absence of arthropod pest management. I feel that insecticides should be used to protect the yield and quality of agricultural products. In my opinion, using insecticides for reasons

other than pest management unnecessarily increases the potential for non-target impacts, development of insecticide resistance, and exposure of mixers and applicators.

Preplant Soil Treatments for Greenbugs

Greenbugs are rarely reported as pests in Kentucky, and if present, are usually the result of planting too early. Preventive treatments are not recommended unless recurrent problems develop. If a problem is anticipated the granular soil applied insecticide, *Counter*, and the seed applied insecticide Cruiser and Poncho are labeled for “at planting” use.

Aphids are almost never a problem on Kentucky grown sorghum. Corn leaf aphids are commonly found but do no damage, only greenbugs and yellow sugarcane aphids are of importance. See IPM-5 (listed above) for description and treatment thresholds.

Foliar Treatments for Greenbugs

Insecticide	Rate per Acre	Days to Harvest or Forage
Dimethoate 4 E (dimethoate)	2 to 1 pt.	28 (Grain, feed, graze)
<i>Lorsban 4E</i> (chlorpyrifos)	2 to 2 pt.	30 (2 - <1pt.) or 60 (1-2 pt.) grain, forage, fodder, hay, silage

Foliar Treatments for Sorghum Midge

Insecticide	Rate per Acre	Days to Harvest/Forage
<i>Asana XL</i> (esfenvalerate)	2.9 – 5.8 fl. oz.	21
<i>Baythroid XL</i> (cyfluthrin)	1 to 1.3 fl. oz.	14
Dimethoate 4E (dimethoate)	1/4 to 1/2 pt.	28 (Grain, feed graze)
<i>Lannate SP</i> (methomyl)	1/4 to 1/2 lb.	14 Grain, grazing or feeding
<i>Lorsban 4E</i> (chlorpyrifos)	1/2 pt.	30 grain, forage, fodder, hay, silage
<i>Mustang Max</i> (zeta-cypermethrin)	1.28 to 4.0 fl. oz.	14 (Grain & stover) 45 (forage)
<i>Warrior</i> (lambda cyhalothrin)	1.92 to 2.56 fl. oz.	30 (Grain) Do not graze or harvest for feed

Begin scouting for midge as the panicles emerge from the boot. Control will be necessary if populations exceed one per head **during bloom**. Johnson grass, late planting, continuous cropping and large numbers of rogues contribute to increasing sorghum midge numbers.

Foliar Treatments for Corn Earworm, Sorghum Webworm, Fall Armyworms

Insecticide	Rate per Acre	Days to Harvest/Forage
<i>Baythroid XL</i> (cyfluthrin)	1.3 to 2.8 fl. oz.	14

Bacillus thuringiensis "B.t."	Aid in control of caterpillars can be obtained using many products containing "B.t.". Some examples are Javelin, Dipel and Lepinox. Check labels for details. Days to Harvest = 0.	
Sevin 4L , Carbaryl 4L (carbaryl)	1.0 to 2.0 Qt.	21(Grain & Fodder) 14 (Forage & Silage)
Lannate SP (methomyl)	1/2 lb.	14 Grain, grazing or feeding
Lorsban 4E (chlorpyrifos)	1 pt. (Webworm) 2 pt. (CEW)	30(1pt.) 60(>pt.) grain, forage, fodder, hay, silage
Mustang Max (zeta-cypermethrin)	1.76 to 4.0 fl. oz.	14 (Grain & stover) 45 (forage)
Tracer (spinosad)	1.5 to 3.0 fl. oz.	7(Grain or fodder) 14(forage or hay)
Warrior (lambda cyhalothrin)	2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz.	30 (Grain) Do not graze or harvest for feed

These insects are primarily head feeders, though some foliage feeding may occur. Treatment is warranted if populations reach 2 small worms per head or if 50% of the plants are infested with fall armyworm feeding in the whorl. Lorsban is not labeled for fall armyworm control.

Foliar Treatments for Grasshoppers

(See: Three Common Kentucky Grasshoppers and their Natural Enemies. Entfact-116.

<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/pdfs/entfa116.pdf>

Insecticide	Rate per Acre	Days to Harvest/Forage
Baythroid XL (cyfluthrin)	2 to 2.8 fl. oz.	14
Sevin 4L , Carbaryl 4L (carbaryl)	0.5 to 1.5 Qt.	21(Grain & Fodder) 14 (Forage & Silage)
Dimethoate 4 (dimethoate)	1 pt.	28 (grain, feed, graze)
Lorsban 4E (chlorpyrifos)	2 to 1 pt.	30 grain, forage, fodder, hay, silage
Mustang Max (zeta-cypermethrin)	3.2 to 4.0 fl. oz.	14 (Grain & stover) 45 (forage)
Warrior (lambda cyhalothrin)	2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz.	30 (Grain) Do not graze or harvest for feed

Products for Control of Insect Pests in Stored Grain Sorghum

(See: Controlling Insects in Stored Grain. Entfact – 145.

<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/pdfs/entfa145.pdf>

Information in these tables is subject to change at any time. Always check the label of the product to insure that you use it correctly. There are other brand names and formulations of the products listed below. These are only the most common forms. If you wish to use a similar product check the label to insure it is registered for the intended use.

PESTICIDES APPLIED ON /IN STORAGE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

“Clean-out” Fumigant

To be applied to boots of elevators, beneath false floors etc. This is an “empty” space fumigation targeted at the space beneath the perforated floor in a metal grain bin. Fumigant is applied on a volume not bushel basis. See the **WARNING** below.

Phostoxin, Fumetoxin, etc. (aluminum phosphide) tablets 30-140 / 1000 cubic feet.
Note: Applied by volume NOT by bushels. pellets 150-700 / 1000 cubic feet

Aluminum phosphide is not significantly heavier than air. Because of it’s light and penetrating nature very close attention must be paid to sealing the area to be treated.

Bin Surface Applications

Dilute with water to make enough spray to treat 1,000 ft. sq. of bin surface. Use only in empty bins.

Tempo SC Ultra (cyfluthrin)	0.27 fl. oz.
Storcide II (chlorpyrifos-methyl + deltamethrin)	1.8 fl. oz. in 1 gal. water
Insecto, etc. (silicon dioxide, from diatomaceous earth)	1.0 lb. per 1,000 ft. sq. Note: some grain buyers, especially food processors will not except grain coated with this product. Be sure your buyer will accept this treatment.

PESTICIDES APPLIED DIRECTLY ON THE GRAIN

Grain Protectants

Applied directly to stored grain sorghum.

Do not use the same compound for both Bin Surface and Grain protection.

Amount per 1,000 bushels

Actellic 5E (pirimiphos-methyl)	9.2 - 12.3 fl. oz.
Storcide II (chlorpyrifos-methyl + deltamethrin)	11.6 fl. oz.

Grain Surface "Cap Out" Treatments

Applied directly to the top surface of stored Grain Sorghum for control of Indian Meal Moth.

Do not use the same compound for Bin Surface, Grain protection and Cap Out treatments. Rotate insecticide use.

Actellic 5E (pirimiphos-methyl)	3 fl. oz. / 1,000 ft. sq. (mixed to 4 inches deep)
Biobit HP (<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> , kurstaki)	3 oz. / 1,000 ft. sq. (mixed to 4 inches deep)
Dipel DF (<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> , kurstaki)	1 lbs. / 1,000 ft. sq. (mixed to 4 inches deep)
Javelin (<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> , kurstaki)	14 oz. / 1,000 ft. sq. (mixed to 4 inches deep)

Indian meal moth larvae can be controlled by many products containing the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* "B.t.". Biobit Dipel and Javelin are three examples.. B.t. products will not control beetles and weevils.

Note: Indian meal moth adults may be controlled by hanging DDVP Resin strips (Vapona) in the head space over the grain mass. Use 1 strip for each 1,000 cubic feet of air space over the grain. One treatment will last about 3 months.

Bulk Grain Fumigation

To be applied / 1,000 bu. stored grain sorghum.

Phostoxin, Fumtoxin, etc. (aluminum phosphide) tablets 40 - 180 / 1,000 bu.
 pellets 200 - 900 / 1,000 bu.

WARNING: Fumigation is a complicated and dangerous technique. If at all possible hire a commercial fumigator. If a commercial fumigation is not possible consult the label / fumigation manual of the product you have chosen to use and follow it to the letter. Note that aluminum phosphide labels have undergone major revision in recent years and now contains significant requirements for pre-planning and documentation of the fumigation, and access to considerable safety equipment.

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