



## Soybean Sentinel Plot Report - August 27, 2019

Our soybean sentinel plots are revealing that beetles and grasshoppers are most active in fields, but likelihood of economic damage mostly remains low.

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Figure 1: A silver-spotted skipper caterpillar. These colorful animals can be easy to find in soybean fields this time of year, but rarely cause economic damage (Photo by Anna Busch, Penn State Extension).

*By this point in the season, most soybean fields have reached the R6 growth stage or later when, defoliation has a limited effect on plant productivity, and you might experience a greater yield loss from driving a sprayer through the soybean field than from the defoliation. If you would like to read more on this topic, see our [newsletter article from last week](#).*

*Our reports continue to indicate that soybean*

*fields tend to contain mostly minor populations of grasshoppers, Japanese beetles, among other insects. Silver-spotted skippers are also becoming more evident; these caterpillars are bright yellow with large red heads (Figure 1), but rarely cause enough damage to be worrisome. For diseases, frogeye leaf spot and Septoria*

*brown spot are widely reported, but populations do not appear to be worth treating. Happy scouting!*

## Background on the project:

For the eighth consecutive season, the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board is funding a Soybean Sentinel Plot Program, which is being managed by the Department of Entomology at Penn State and executed by Penn State Extension. In this effort, Penn State Extension Educators are regularly scouting 30 or so ‘typical’ soybean fields in twenty-three counties across the state, reporting the populations of plant pathogens and insect pests that they find. Our goal is to inform the agricultural community of pests that are active across the state, so folks will have a sense of what to expect when they scout their own fields as part of an IPM program. It would be inappropriate to use these reports to justify insecticide applications.

In the reports below, pests that were found during scouting are listed with their severity, which is rated on a 1-10 scale with 10 being the highest. A severity score of 1 equates to 10% or less infestation or defoliation, a “2” aligns with 20% or less infestation or defoliation, and so on. Growers should be sure to check their own fields to determine your local populations, but these reports will indicate which pests are likely to be active in fields. Our reports are distributed via this weekly newsletter and are also [available online](#) by searching for “soybean sentinel plot”.

### 27 August 2019 – York County – Heidi Reed

#### Growth stage: R6

- Grasshopper – Severity: 1
- Bean leaf beetle – Severity: 2
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 1
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1
- Soybean sudden death syndrome – Severity: 2

### 27 August 2019 – Crawford County – Joel Hunter

#### Growth stage: R5

- Grasshoppers – Severity: 1
- Japanese beetle – Severity: 1
- Soybean aphid – Severity: 1

- Bean leaf beetle – Severity: 1
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 1
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1

## **27 August 2019 – Dauphin County – Liz Bosak**

### **Growth stage: R6**

- Silver-spotted skipper caterpillar – Severity: 1
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1

## **27 August 2019 – Perry County – Liz Bosak**

### **Growth stage: R6**

- Silver-spotted skipper caterpillar – Severity: 1
- No diseases observed

## **26 August 2019 – Bradford County – Casey Guindon**

### **Growth stage: R6**

- Japanese beetle – Severity: 1
- Silver-spotted skipper caterpillar – Severity: 1
- Beneficial insects: Lady beetles abundant
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 1

## **26 August 2019 – Franklin County – Brittany Clark**

### **Growth stage: R6**

- Grasshoppers – Severity: 2
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 3

## **26 August 2019 – Lancaster County – Jeff Graybill**

### **Growth stage: R6**

- No significant insect damage
- White mold – Severity: 1.5
- Significant lodging is expected to lower yield and quality

## **26 August 2019 – Blair County – Zach Larson**

### **Near Williamsburg**

#### **Growth stage: R6**

- Bean leaf beetle – Severity: 1
- Japanese beetle – Severity: 1
- Grasshoppers – Severity: 1
- Beneficial insects: lady beetles
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 1
- Downy mildew – Severity: 1

## **25 August 2019 – Potter County – Jack Thomas and Nicole Santangelo**

### **Near Ellisburg**

#### **Growth stage: R5**

- Japanese beetle – Severity: 2
- Beneficial insects: Lady beetles
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 2
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1

## **25 August 2019 – Potter County – Jack Thomas and Nicole Santangelo**

### **South of Galetton**

#### **Growth stage: R6**

- Japanese beetle – Severity: 2
- Grasshoppers – Severity: 1
- Beneficial insects: Lady beetles
- Frogeye leaf spot – Severity: 2
- Septoria brown spot – Severity: 1

## **25 August 2019 – McKean County – Jack Thomas and Nicole Santangelo**

#### **Growth stage: R4**

- Japanese beetle - Severity: 1
- Grasshoppers - Severity: 2
- Beneficial insects: Lady beetles
- Septoria brown spot - Severity: 1

## **23 August 2019 - Bedford County - Zach Larson**

### **Near Cessna**

#### **Growth stage: R6**

- Bean leaf beetle - Severity: 1
- Japanese beetle - Severity: 1
- Green cloverworm - Severity: 1
- Septoria brown spot - Severity: 1
- Frogeye leaf spot - Severity: 1