

# An Eye On Pests

## Farmers Can Curb Losses By Controlling Red-Banded Stinkbug

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One of the most difficult stinkbugs for farmers to control on their crops is the red-banded stinkbug. Native to South America and Brazil, the pests have moved north, taken up residence in the United States in recent years and are increasing in numbers.

“Given a certain population number, they seem to be more damaging than a lot of the other stinkbug species,” said Roy Boykin, technical brand manager for Syngenta Crop Protection. “We don’t know why, but the research that has been done the last few years does indicate that for a given population size they cause more damage than other stinkbugs.”

Red-banded stinkbugs overwinter on weeds as well as crops, and are becoming more difficult to control. They are common in the southern states as far north as the Carolinas, to the Bootheel of Missouri in the Midwest and as far west as New Mexico.

“It can cause significant damage on any crop it infests, but in the South it is a particular problem on cotton and soybeans,” he said. “It also causes problems in bean vegetable crops and strawberries.”

This pest inflicts damage at different times de-

pending on the crop, but always during the summer months.

“In soybeans, it’s when the soybeans develop pods, on cotton they feed on the bolls,” he continued. “They are relatively difficult to control, and relatively speaking, they are more difficult to manage than the other stinkbugs, because of their actual habits, where they lay eggs, where they hide out. There are not many products that do a good job controlling them.

“Some of the organophosphates do fairly well, however we have a product, Endigo-ZC, that offers the best control,” Boykin said. “It’s a pre-mix product and, when used at a high rate of 4 1/2 ounces it does a good job on these pests, versus the single ingredients by themselves.”

Single ingredients that have some effect are the pyrethroids, organophosphates and nicotinoids.

“Not many of the single ingredients can do the job,” he said. “The pre-mix that we provide is the formula that is needed.”

He urged farmers to be on the lookout for red-banded stinkbugs, know how to identify them and become acquainted with products to control them. Δ

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