

Lespedeza Worm Problems On The Rise

A Solution is in the Works

KRISTEN JOHNSON
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

STUTTGART, ARK.

A solution for lespedeza worm (grape colaspis) problems in rice is in the works, according to the University of Arkansas's Extension Entomologist, Dr. Gus Lorenz.

Lespedeza worm is a tiny oval beetle that feeds on a variety of plants. This tiny pest is threatening the yield in Arkansas's rice counties. Arkansas puts out 1.4 million acres of rice crop a year and damage from the grape colaspis can prompt even more damage from other pests such as the rice weevil, which zeroes in on fields that have already been thinned.

"The last several years, we have been experiencing some real problems in the prairie growing region of Arkansas with lespedeza worm or grape colaspis," stated Lorenz, "we've been looking for solutions to the problem for our growers by focusing on several seed treatment options."

"The problem has been with small plots," said Lorenz, "it is extremely difficult to put small plots in the right spot. However, this year we received a Section 18 for Dermacor made by DuPont and we were able to evaluate it over several thousand acres and get some data."

"The data we received indicated that we should keep working," said Lorenz, "now we are looking at some other seed treatments such as Thiomethoxam or Cruiser and also at Clothianadin."

According to Lorenz, by testing these products on a limited amount of acreage, it is difficult to evaluate the value of the products for the grower.

"Lespedeza worm was a serious problem for growers this year and last. It just seems as if it has been building and causing problems for growers for too long," said Lorenz, "we need to find a solution for this problem."

"We need to do more work, we have got a lot of work done but there is still more to do," said Lorenz, "we have just got to keep moving forward to find a solution to help our growers. Δ



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