

May 2024

Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) was recently noted in Todd County in high tunnel tomatoes. This disease may affect many different crops, including beans, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and eggplants. Symptoms of this disease may vary, so identifying it can be challenging. Common symptoms include ringspots, lesions, stunting, wilting, and bronzing. Tomatoes diagnosed with TSWV here had purplish/brownish bronzing on leaves as shown in this photo.



Contact the extension office if you would like to submit plants to the diagnostic laboratory for diagnosis.

There are no chemical management options for virus diseases. UK plant pathologists Kim Leonberger and Nicole Gauthier recommend using these practices to limit infection and spread:

- ◆ Purchase certified disease-free seeds or transplants.
- ◆ Utilize disease resistant cultivars.
- ◆ Manage weeds in and near plantings.
- ◆ Manage thrips populations to limit the potential for them to introduce disease into your crop.
- ◆ Remove and destroy infected plants once disease is confirmed. Make sure to remove the complete plant, including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit.
- ◆ Diseased plant materials should be removed immediately and destroyed.

Todd County Extension · 240 Pond River Rd · Elkton, KY 42220 · 270-265-5659

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Pre- and Post-emergence Strike of Slugs & Snails on Soybeans

Dr. Raul Villanueva, Entomology Extension Specialist
Zenaida Vilorio, Entomology Research Analyst
Kentucky Pest News, April 30, 2024

Abundance of Slugs & Snails in 2024

The warmer winter in 2024, along with rains and foggy conditions during several days in March and April, have been conducive to the presence of slugs and snails in commercial and research plots in Western Kentucky. Since the end of March and the first week of April, UK entomologists have been observing slugs in various stages of development, including eggs in soybean and corn fields. The favorable conditions described above might have increased their populations in fields, leading to a reduction of plant stands in several soybean fields; in many cases, entire fields have been consumed.

In soybean fields heavily affected by slugs, plant stands of 2 to 10 plants per 5-ft row are in contrast to normal stands of 20 to 30 plants per 5-ft row (based on average plantings in Kentucky: 5 to 6 seeds per foot-row planted in 20" row width) (Figure 1). Damage observed in fields showed that slugs were feeding on unsprouted seeds and emerging seedlings (Figure 2). Also, observations since the first week of April have shown that eggs were laid in moist soils covered by organic matter from the previous crop (soybeans, corn, or wheat). Figure 3 shows that slugs were well protected under dry brace roots of corn, ovipositing eggs under these structures.

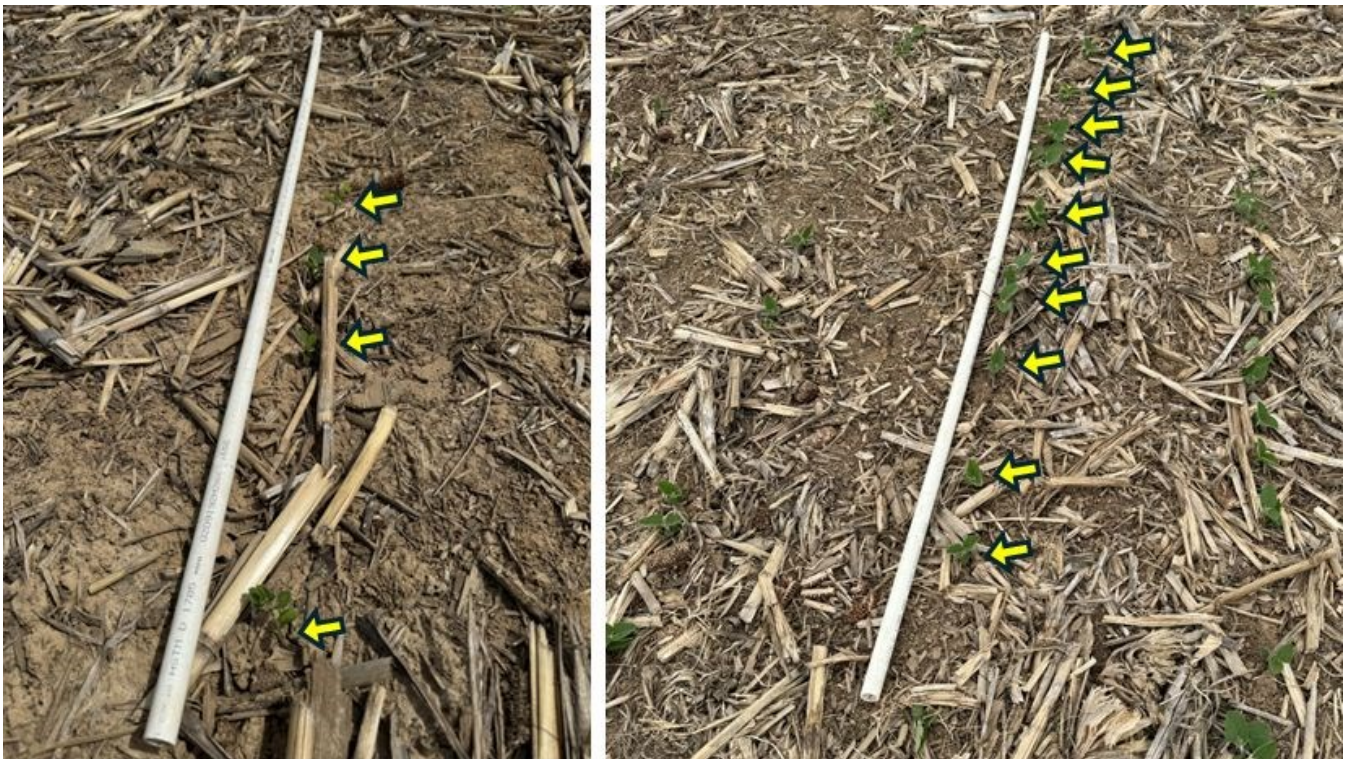


Figure 1. Photos of 5-ft rows in two soybean fields showing the reduction of plant stands caused by slug feeding: 4 plants (left) and 10 plants (right), shown with yellow arrows, in center rows. Under normal conditions, there should be 20 to 30 plants per 5-ft row (Photo: Raul. Villanueva, UK).

Slugs and Snails (continued)



Figure 2A. Slug feeding on pesticide coated, swollen, and unsprouted soybean seed (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK).



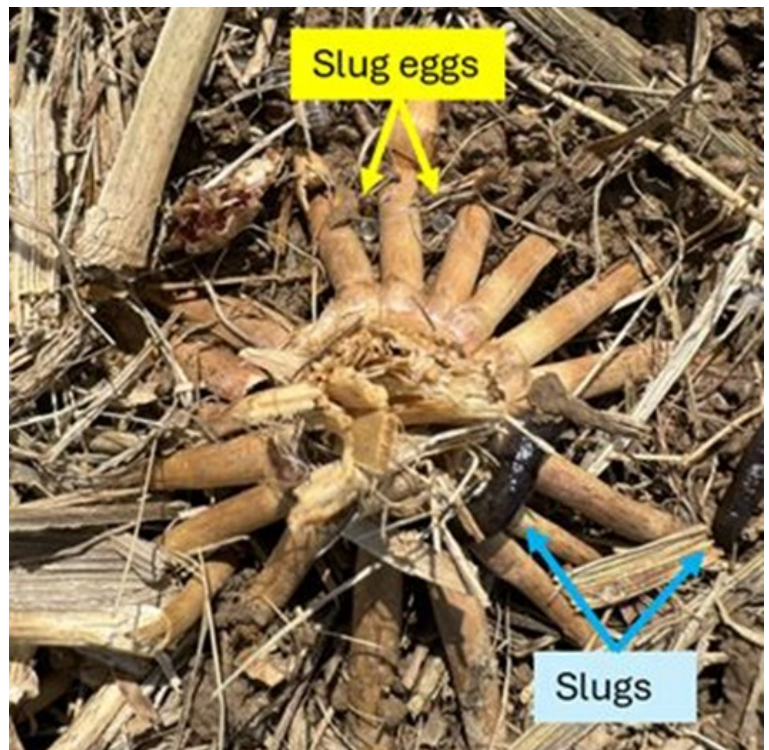
Figure 2B. Feeding damage on emerged and unsprouted seed (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK).

Figure 3. Corn stalk left in the field with brace roots that sheltered snails and their eggs. Although only 2 eggs are shown in this image, more than 15 snail eggs were found under the brace roots (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK).

Mollusk Management

There is no rescue treatment for slug damage or thresholds for application of molluscicides. If stands are low, replanting is recommended, and an application of molluscicides may be necessary. On February 27, 2024, we wrote a KPN article ([Slugs are Active in February 2024, but Farmers Have Two Registered Molluscicides under Section 24\(c\) in Kentucky](#)) that discussed the possibility of abundant mollusks during corn and soybean germination periods.

This was based on environmental conditions and mentioned two metaldehyde molluscicides that are registered under the Section 24(c) for soybeans and corn in Kentucky: Deadline® M-Ps™ and Slug-Fest®. In addition to these two products, Table 1 shows additional molluscicides that can be used in corn and soybeans for management of slugs or snails.



Slugs and Snails (continued)

Table 1. Molluscicides* that are available in Kentucky for the management of slugs and snail in corn and soybeans.

Products	Crop	Growth Stage	Max. single Application	Total N ^o of Application /Season	RAI days	PHI days	Type of application
Deadline® M-Ps™ <i>metaldehyde</i>	Field Corn	Up to V8	25 lbs/Acre	3	7	0	Broadcast or ground directed
		V8 to VT					
Soybean	Up to V4	10 lbs/Acre					
	V4 to R1						
Slug Fest® <i>metaldehyde</i>	Field Corn	Seedling or later stages	59 fl.oz./Acre	3	4	0	Spray, may be tank mixed with other chemicals or fertilizers.
	Soybean	Seedling or later stages	23 fl.oz./Acre	4	3		
SLUGGO <i>Iron phosphate</i> 1%	Field Corn	Seedling or later stages	20 to 44 lbs/Acre	n/a	14	n/a	Broadcast or ground directed
	Soybean						
FERROXX <i>Sodium ferric</i> 5%	Corn Soybeans Wheat Rye	Seedling	5 to 20 lbs/Acre	-	-	0	Broadcast or aerial application

*The University of Kentucky does not endorse any of the products listed here; they are shown for information purposes only.

UK Wheat Field Day

May 14, 2024

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Evolution of Carbon Markets: Are There Opportunities for Kentucky Wheat Producers?** - Dr. Jordan Shockley
- **Wheat Disease Update** - Dr. Carl Bradley
- **Wheat Breeding: Process and Methods** - Dr. Dave Van Sanford
- **Wheat Fertilization** - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
- **Residual Herbicide Timing for Ryegrass Control in Wheat** - Dr. Travis Legleiter
- **International, Domestic, and Local Trends That Inform Wheat Marketing Decisions** - Dr. Grant Gardner
- **Wheat Variety Trial (Walk Through)** - Bill Bruening

UKREC Farm
1205 Hopkinsville St,
Princeton, Ky 42445
9 am - NOON (Central time)
Registration: 8 am




EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:
CCA: PM 1hr, CM 0.5hr,
Prof Dev 0.5
Pesticide: 1 CEU cat 1A,
1CEU cat 10

For additional information contact Colette Laurent : (859) 562-1321 or cl Laurent@uky.edu

Events

May 14
Wheat Field Day, 9:00 AM–Noon
UKREC, Princeton, KY

July 23
Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day
UKREC, Princeton, KY

August 5
Rinse & Return for Pesticide Containers
9:00 – 11:00 AM
Todd County Road Department
411 Streets Avenue, Elkton, KY
Pick-up available for large quantities — call the
Extension Office for more information.

Home Gardeners' Corner

It never fails. About the time I'm sick of cold gloomy days, spring starts kicking in. Before you know it, boom. Everything greens up, and most people I know are itching to get out and plant something. Part of the fun is trying new varieties or getting new plants for your gardens. That fun helps balance out the mundane chores like weeding and poison ivy patrol.

Over the years, I've experimented with **container gardening** and planting vegetables in my landscape. That experience helped me gauge how successful these options could be for others. Especially people with limited space or those who aren't able to take care of a big vegetable garden anymore.

The biggest challenge of growing in containers is paying attention to watering.

The soil will dry out much quicker than garden soil does. As long as you're diligent about watering, container gardening is a great option. For beginners or those who enjoy cooking, growing herbs in containers is pretty easy and provides a lot of return. Fresh herbs are a great way to season food, bring out new flavors, and reduce the amount of salt used when cooking. Basil is one of the easiest to grow. It's a sturdy plant with few pest problems. Bees and other pollinators will visit and enjoy basil flowers but won't harm plants.



As far as volume, the bigger the container, the better. Because potting mixes dry out faster, having a larger container with a larger volume of soil works in your favor. And some plants are going to grow better in bigger containers because they're big plants when mature — peppers and tomatoes are good examples. 5-gallon containers are recommended for tomatoes. **Make sure containers have drainage holes** so that plant roots don't drown or become diseased.



Planting into your home landscape is also a great way to grow some vegetables. I've grown summer squash this way several times with good success. Container gardening and **edible landscape plantings** are great ways to introduce children to gardening, too. The photo on the left shows an edible landscape planting example. In this case, roses infected with rose rosette virus had been removed from the landscape, leaving some fairly large gaps. Squash filled in these gaps nicely.

Contact us if you'd like a copy of our Home Vegetable and Container Gardening Guides.

Sign Up for E-mail News

I am offering e-mail news notifications for anyone interested. These will go out 2 – 3 times per month to update subscribers on important farm and home garden news. If you'd like to receive news by email – drop me a line at traci.johnson@uky.edu

I'd also welcome your ideas on the types of farm and home garden classes or field days you'd like to see in the future.



*Fenceline Feeder System
Eden Shale Farm, Owenton*

Out and About

On a recent farm visit, someone asked, “Do you get to visit all the farmers in the county?” Nothing would tickle me more than to be out on farms all day long. When agents make farm visits, though, it's usually because someone needs help with a crop pest or other production advice. Or sometimes farmers want another set of eyes on changes they're considering. My job is to help clients succeed, no matter what they're growing. That means time in the office is needed as well to field phone calls and walk-in visits.



*Dark Tobacco Research
UKREC, Princeton*

UK & KSU Extension has a great team of specialists who help agents with subjects we know less about. So never hesitate to call. If I don't have the knowledge, I'll recruit a specialist to assist.

I probably shared that I started in Extension at the UK research station in Princeton. Those were the glory days of dark tobacco for me. I loved the crop and the culture surrounding its production. I learned so much working with specialists Bill Maksymowicz and Larry Swetnam.

Maybe one of the most important things I learned from them is caring about your work, the people you work with, and the satisfaction of helping others. That idea has stuck with me over the years and has guided my job path for sure. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming years.



Traci Johnson
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent