

Scout soybean fields regularly for insects

NEWARK, Del. — Soybean farmers should scout their fields regularly now for signs of insect pests. During warm weather, populations can increase rapidly.

University of Delaware Extension pest management specialist Mark Graustein says frequent walks through fields can help catch problems early when controls are most effective.

"If extremely warm conditions persist, we expect spider mite

problems to increase," he says. Early mite infestations generally begin around field margins. Symptoms are yellowing or bronzing of leaves.

When these symptoms are found, farmers should check their fields immediately for spider mites. Quick action is essential. If mites are detected early and if they're limited to field margins, only those infested parts of the field should need treatment, the specialist says. If control is called for, he

recommends either Trithion or Cygon 400.

Mexican bean beetle populations are currently low to moderate in most parts of the state. To check fields, scout at least 10 locations and estimate the number of larvae and adults per 3-row-feet at each location. Need for treatment is determined by insect counts and plant maturity. Control is recommended under the following Plant maturities and average beetle counts per 3 feet: seedling

state - 3 or more (adults); pre-bloom - 20 or more (adults & larvae); bloom - 16 or more (adults & larvae); pod set - 16 or more (adults & larvae).

If control is needed and beneficial parasite "mummies" are not present, Graustein recommends treatment with one of these materials: Sevin, Cythion, Lannate, Nudrin, Trithion, Penn-cap M, Cygon 400 or Orthene.

Other insects which may now be present in some fields are

Japanese beetles, green clover-worms, silver-spotted skippers, grasshoppers and leafrollers. If any of these appear to be causing serious damage, farmers are urged to call their county extension office.

BUTTER EGGS

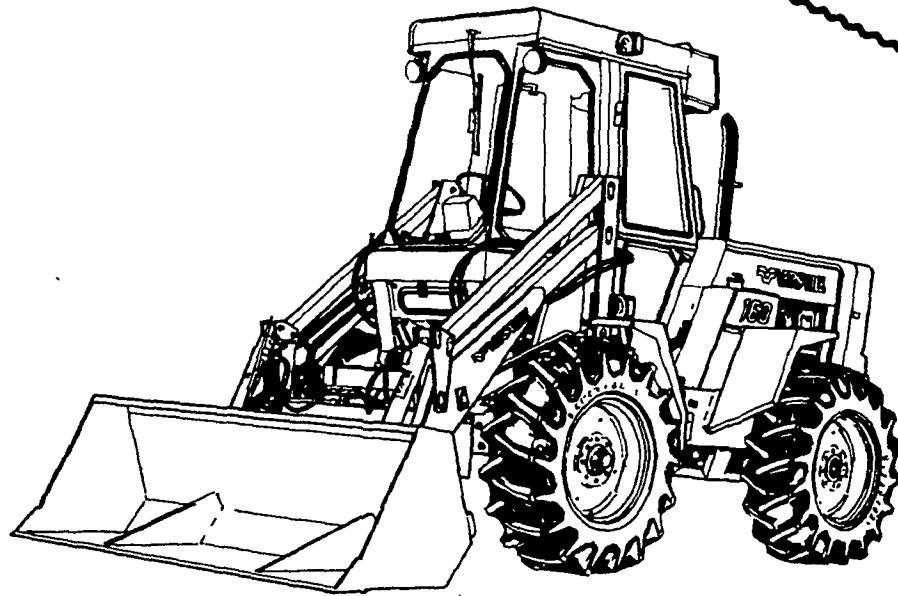
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