Scouting Sugarcane Aphids

Timing effective treatment to control *sugarcane aphids* (SCA) in sorghum depends on the size of the SCA population. To estimate the number of SCA in a field, follow these steps for scouting the field and use the Sampling Protocol (below) and % plants with aphids (on back) to make treatment decisions.

**First Detection: Is the Field at Risk?**

**Sampling protocol**

1. Once a week, start on any edge of the field and examine 3 consecutive plants for aphids. Walk 5 more feet and sample 3 more consecutive plants. This is equal to 1 “Stop.”
2. Minimum distance between stops should be 40-50 ft or paces. Repeat counts as in previous step for each stop (total = 9), making a “V” shape.
3. Average the number of aphids per upper and lower leaves to determine threshold level using 54 plants.

**NOT Present?**

If no SCA are present, or only a few wingless/winged aphids are on upper leaves, continue once-a-week scouting (**protocol above**).

**Present?**

If SCA are found on lower or upper-canopy leaves, begin twice-a-week scouting. Use the Sampling Protocol (**above**) and % plants with 50-125 aphids per leaf (**on back**).
SCA Threshold by Growth Stage

Estimate the percentage (%) of infested plants with 50-125 sugarcane aphids (SCA) per leaf to help time **foliar insecticide** (Sivanto @ 4 oz/acre or Transform @ 1 oz/acre) applications.

Apply insecticide when:
- 20% of plants infested with 50-125 per leaf
- 30% of plants infested with 50-125 per leaf
- Black layer

Learn more about sugarcane aphid and map its progress at: [http://myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid](http://myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid)