Soybean Aphid Detected in Michigan

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Dr. Chris DiFonzo, Fields Crops Entomologist & Pesticide Education Coordinator, Michigan State University reported today that a new aphid species has been detected in Michigan. The aphids infesting soybean have been identified as *Aphis glycines*, commonly known as the soybean aphid. This is a new pest to the United States. It is native to Asia and can do extensive damage to soybeans. It has been confirmed in, northern Illinois, Michigan, southeast Minnesota and Wisconsin. Dr. DiFonzo reports that is has been found in the following Michigan counties: Allegan, Berrien, Calhoun, Kent, Ottawa, Saginaw and Van Buren.

More information about this species can be found at the following web site: http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/insects/aglycin.htm Information from this site indicates that *A. glycines* is capable of causing significant reduction in growth and seed production in soybeans. One study in China showed that seed yields were reduced by nearly 28% and plant height decreased by almost 8 inches in infested plants as compared with the control. The soybean aphid is a known vector of a number of plant virus diseases, including abaca mosaic, soybean mosaic, soybean stunt, beet mosaic, millet red leaf, mungbean mosaic, bean yellow mosaic and Indonesian soybean dwarf. *A. glycines* has been found to transmit peanut mottle virus in ground nuts in Indonesia.

Dr. DiFonzo requests that if aphids are found in soy fields, please collect specimens or simply report back to her so she can add locations to her list. Insecticide strip trials have been conducted in Ottawa County and are available upon request from Dr. DiFonzo.