

Progress thru Sharing Progress thru Sharing

iPiPE

INTEGRATED PEST INFORMATION PLATFORM
FOR EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

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Progress Through Sharing:

September 2018 - iPiPE News

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Managing Sugarcane Aphid in Texas Sorghum

Sorghum dominates crop acreage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where 250,000 to 400,000 acres of sorghum are planted each year. Sorghum grain is primarily used for livestock feed and ethanol production, but has become popular in the consumer food industry and other emerging markets.

Recently the invasive sugarcane aphid (SCA) *Melanaphis sacchari* has begun to create havoc in Texas sorghum. Over the past few years, this insect has been found in 12 U.S. states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma and Arkansas in 2013; and Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Kansas,

Missouri, and South Carolina in 2014); and 9 states in Mexico. SCA has a rapid wind-powered dispersion and exponential population growth. Today, SCA is considered the most important pest of sorghum.



Sugarcane aphid (SCA) *Melanaphis sacchari*

[Photo source](#)



Sugarcane aphids on sorghum

[Photo source](#)

Danielle Sekula with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is leading an initiative to provide timely and science-based information to growers, consultants and extension agents on the temporal abundances and best insect pest management tactics to control SCA. According to Sekula, “Monitoring the sugarcane aphids populations and migration during the growing season (and off season), conducting variety trials, efficacy trials and monitoring for beneficials in sorghum, and then educating our growers about them, are all key to the success of suppressing the sugarcane aphid in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.” Education and outreach are conducted through field days, newsletters and generating science-based information on printed and digital media. Sekula’s Pest Cast newsletters can be found by following this link - <https://southtexas.tamu.edu/programs-and-services/ipm/>



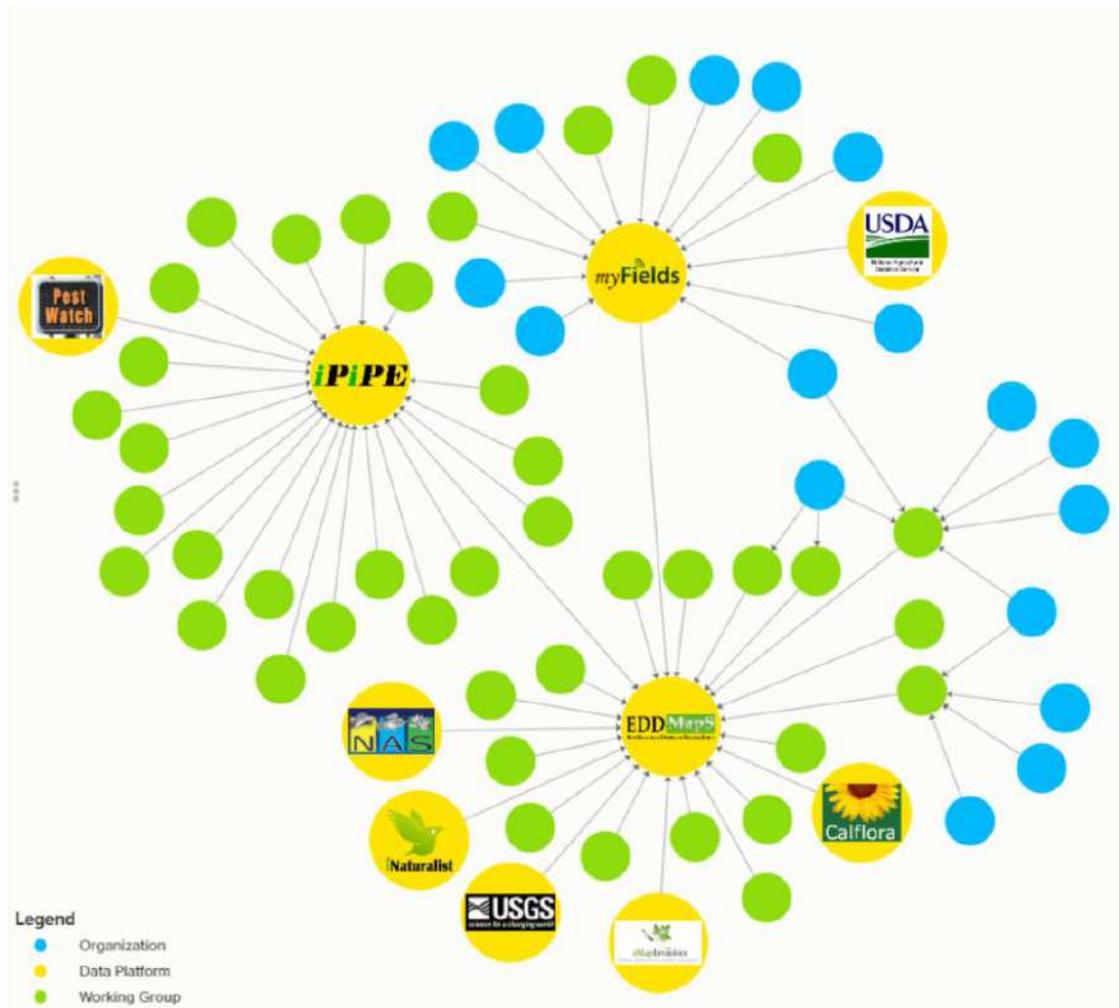
Sorghum field day, photo source: Danielle Sekula

Data Sharing Between Platforms

In addition to collecting pest observations from individuals, iPiPE is designed to share data from a variety of platforms that exist to serve different audiences. The platforms include databases from universities, working groups and crop improvement associations. These organizations use different systems for collecting data, and iPiPE is used to share pest observations from these diverse groups on a single platform. Data aggregation allows the creation of maps with a more complete picture of insects and diseases and model predictions of risk from insect and disease outbreaks. “By sharing information between platforms, all programs benefit, and we can do more to monitor pest populations, forecast risk, and optimize pest management,” explained Joseph LaForest, steward of the National Pest Observation Repository within EDDMapS.

An easy to interpret diagram of what happens to pest observations you share with iPiPE is found by following this link (<http://www.ipipe.org/about>). Users with concerns or questions about submitting observations to the iPiPE platform are welcome to contact the iPiPE administrator, Julie Golod (goloj689@zedx.com). Sponsorship from the USDA has kept the iPiPE platform open to the public and

free of charge in exchange for user contribution of pest records to the database. To request an account and explore these exciting user interface updates, visit: <https://iPIPE.zedxinc.com>.

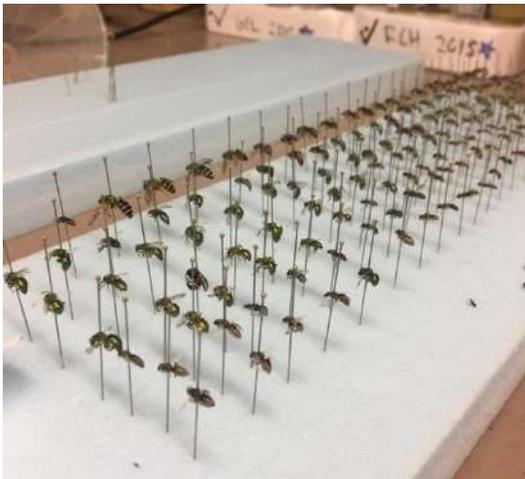


Follow this link for an interactive map - <https://kumu.io/IPMC/data-sharing-networks>



2018 Pollinator Habitat Usage Survey

Researchers across 13 states surveyed a variety of established habitats to determine how these areas are utilized by both pollinators and pest species as part of the 2018 Pollinator Habitat Usage Survey. The goal is to use the results from the survey to develop plans for further improvements of pollinator protection efforts and to determine how habitats are used by beneficial insects as well as pest species.



Maddy Kangas, a master's student in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is one of the researchers conducting the survey. This summer, she and her team mates in Dr. Miller's Lab sampled 23 different prairie sites at three separate times to determine bee diversity. They took a total of 138 samples, which resulted in the collection of approximately 10,000 bees. Kangas described her plans to complete the project this fall include, "pinning bees and identifying them to the species level. We collected far more bees than expected but are excited to see some of the results of our efforts."

Funding for the survey was provided by the North Central IPM Center and USDA NIFA.

On February 5-6, 2019 iPiPE members will gather at Park Alumni Center in Raleigh, NC for the fifth Annual iPiPE Project Mixer (iPMx5). The mixer will provide new and continuing participants an opportunity to learn more about iPiPE and its benefits through data sharing and pest forecasting. The iPiPE team will be sharing results from a market research being conducted currently and will unveil a new strategic plan for iPiPE. The strategic planning and market research effort came out of the 2018 advisory board meeting at iPMx, with the goal of ensuring long-term financial sustainability for the collaboration. The iPiPE program is contracting with Beck Ag in Indiana to complete market research. Beck Ag completed interviews with iPiPE's key target audience and presented those findings to the iPiPE strategic planning team in August.

Additional interviews are currently underway with farmers, ag retailers, and other key participants. "We are really excited about the insights we are gaining from this research. The results are helping us to clarify who our key contributors are and what they need to maximize value from their participation – both contributing observations and benefiting from timely, actionable information about pest status," said Dr. Thomas Green, President of IPM Institute, advisory board member and member of the strategic planning team. The iPiPE strategic planning team members are Dr. Jean-Jacque Dubois, Julie Golod, Dr. Thomas Green, Dr. Scott Isard and Joseph LaForest.



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