

'Best Bet' IPM strategy

Sorghum pests – Northern region

Pre-season and sowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher midge resistance ratings for later plantings provide greater midge control. Early sorghum crops have lower midge pressure. Open headed type sorghum hybrids deter aphids, Rutherglen bug and sorghum head caterpillars. Direct search, or use germinating seed baits prior to sowing to determine risk of soil insect attack. Seed dressings effective for all but high pest pressure. Press wheels can reduce impact of false wireworm. Aim for rapid germination and uniform crop establishment to minimise seedling losses, and simplify later monitoring and management of midge and helioverpa. Control broadleaf weeds in-field and around crop margins to avoid build-up of cutworm prior to seedling emergence.
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	Vegetative	Flowering-Grain fill	Maturity	Post-harvest
Sorghum midge	Increased risk of high midge pressure at flowering if there is abundant Johnson grass that will allow build up before moving into sorghum.	Crop is at risk only during flowering. Increased risk of damage where the crop is not uniform and the timing of control is not effective for all heads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor for midge from the start of flowering. under high pressure, or extended crop flowering, repeat insecticide control may be required. 		
Helicoverpa armigera	Larvae may feed in whorl, but do not cause significant damage.	Increased risk of damage where large larvae have developed in the vegetative crop and move up onto heads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor crops from head emergence. Beat heads to detect eggs and small larvae. where the crop is not uniform, sample from areas at different stages of development. NPV is highly effective in sorghum, but timing is critical. Apply at day 3 of flowering (50% brown anthers) or for larvae <7 mm long. Larvae >13 mm will not be controlled.		Larvae pupating after mid-March are likely to remain in the soil until the following spring. Pupae bust affected crops before moths emerge (prior to August) to prevent pest carryover and insecticide resistance.
Rutherglen bug		High risk when large influxes occur during flowering and early grain fill. In some seasons influxes will continue for several weeks. Monitor for RGB when checking for midge and helioverpa.	Grain at physiological maturity is no longer susceptible to yield loss from RGB, however in a wet finish, damaged grain is more susceptible to infection by fungi and bacteria that reduce grain quality.	RGB feeding damage will affect the viability (germination %) of seed.
Minor pests (common armyworm, aphids)	Monitor for armyworm from crop emergence (shot hole damage in advanced plants has no impact). Corn aphids colonise the whorl but have no impact and are usually controlled by beneficials.	Aphid infestations may persist through head emergence and grain fill, but they have no impact on yield and are generally controlled by beneficials. However, the use of broad spectrum insecticides for midge and helioverpa control may flare aphid populations. Control is only warranted if the sticky honeydew poses a risk to ease of harvest.		