Management of Sugarcane Aphid (Hemiptera: Aphididae) in Forage Sorghum in Arizona

Kyle Harrington, Ayman Mostafa

The University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cooperative Extension and Department of Entomology

The sugarcane aphid (SCA), *Melanaphis sacchari* (Zehntner) (Hemiptera: Aphididae), is a new invasive pest of sorghum in Arizona forage sorghum, grain sorghum, and sudangrass. This aphid has consistently presented outbreaks since 2016 in AZ and CA. High reproductive potential, wind dispersal, and ability to overwinter on living annual and perennial hosts of those species appear to be the main factors in its impressive geographic spread in all southern states from East to West coast. The heavy infestations, often with thousands of SCA per leaf, can cause significant decrease to yield and forage quality. Infested leaves become sticky and shiny from honeydew and coated with sooty mold fungus, which hamper harvesting operations. An on farm, and field trials, were conducted since 2016 in Arizona to test the efficacies of current and prospective insecticides against the SCA. In 2018, a commercial formulation of the entomopathogenic fungus *Isaria* sp. (PFR-97) was tested against other synthetic insecticides. These results provide the first hand information of management of SCA in forage sorghum in Arizona.