

# CONTROL RESISTANT APHID POPULATIONS AND PROTECT SOYBEAN YIELD POTENTIAL

The well-documented development of resistant insect pest populations dates back to the early 1900s. Farmers in Iowa and Minnesota can attest to the propensity for resistance development after attempting to control threshold-level populations of soybean aphids between 2000 and 2008 with pyrethroids.

**"One season, heavy aphid populations were reported as far south as Missouri," said Dennis Holland, market development specialist with Corteva Agriscience. "That was really unheard of at the time, but cooler summer temperatures can accelerate aphid populations in any given year."**

Aphids can cause up to 50% yield loss, especially when infestations reach the commonly advocated threshold of 250 aphids per plant between early growth stages (pod fill) R1 to R5.<sup>1</sup>

**"Several growers I've spoken with who made applications with a single mode-of-action pyrethroid product scouted those fields three to five days later and still found aphid populations meeting threshold," Holland said. "Thorough scouting is key to verify the effectiveness of any insecticide application, even late into the plant's reproductive growth stages."**

## GO WITH MULTIPLE MOA, FLEXIBILITY

Aphid populations can sometimes increase after foliar applications because resistant aphids survive and reproduce. This exacerbates the cycle of resistance and increases the need for a more effective insecticide.

**"This is where Ridgeback insecticide can be a great product solution – in regions where soybean farmers battle infestations of aphids," Holland said. "Bringing an additional mode of action, sulfoxaflor (Group 4C) is field-tested and proven to control soybean aphids, as well as Japanese beetles, spider mites and other pests, while also strengthening resistance management stewardship."**

Ridgeback<sup>®</sup> insecticide with Isoclast<sup>®</sup> active works by contact and ingestion. It has excellent translaminar movement to target aphids under soybean leaves, where tender new growth

is more readily available and preferred. This is especially common during heavy infestations.

North Dakota State University aphid research confirms a yield increase with Ridgeback insecticide.<sup>2</sup>

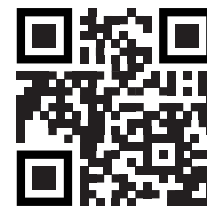
**"It's also tank-mix-friendly with fungicides, which could reduce trips across the field when treating for aphids and foliar diseases," Holland said. "Don't forget the importance of good coverage. Even though 10 gallons per acre is recommended for a ground rig, I'm not opposed to using 15 to 20 gallons."**

Some weather forecasters expect the La Niña weather pattern to weaken and shift toward El Niño later this growing season, possibly bringing weather that swings between cooler and warmer temperatures.

**"If this shift occurs, maintain a vigilant scouting regimen and be ready to call your local retailer to discuss all the benefits and added value Ridgeback insecticide offers through its unique mode of action," Holland concludes.**



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<sup>1</sup>Legend Seeds. 2025. Spraying for Aphids in Soybeans: What You Need to Know. <https://legendseeds.net/news-and-info/agronomy-library/spraying-aphids-soybeans>

<sup>2</sup>Oxford Academic. 2026. Efficacy of insecticides against soybean aphid, 2024. <https://academic.oup.com/amt/article/51/1/tsag024/8559683>

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