Spatial patterns of seed weevil damage in grower fields in central South Dakota

Jeff Cluever, Zachary Tarble, and Jarrad Prasifka

Sunflower a native North American crop

- US has about 2% of world production
- \$794 million (2022)
- Most acres are for oil (≈91%)
- Has a large pest complex



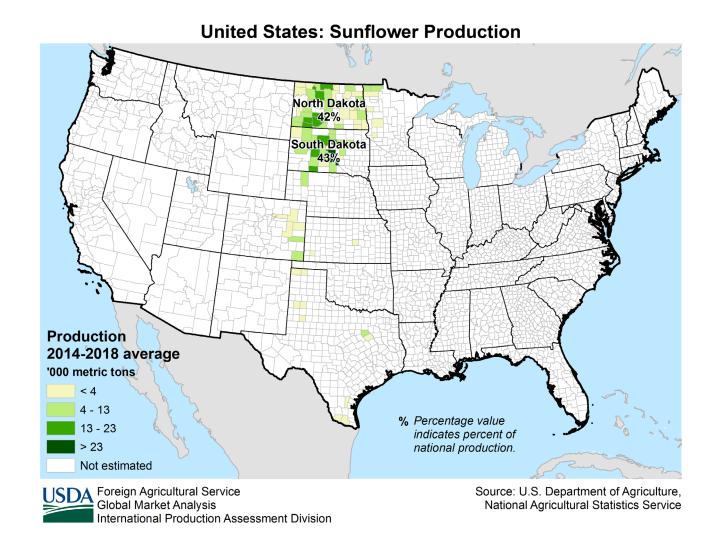


Photo Credit: P. Sloderbeck, M. Dreiling, D. Cappaert, F. Peairs

Red sunflower seed weevil

- 1 Generation/year
- Emerge from soil
- Feed on pollen
- Consume $\approx 1/3$ of seed



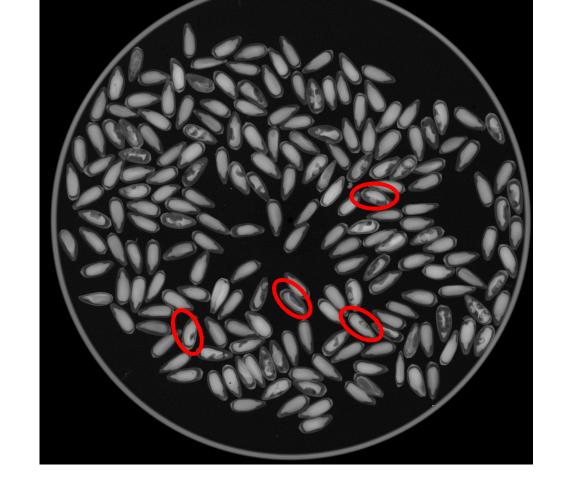
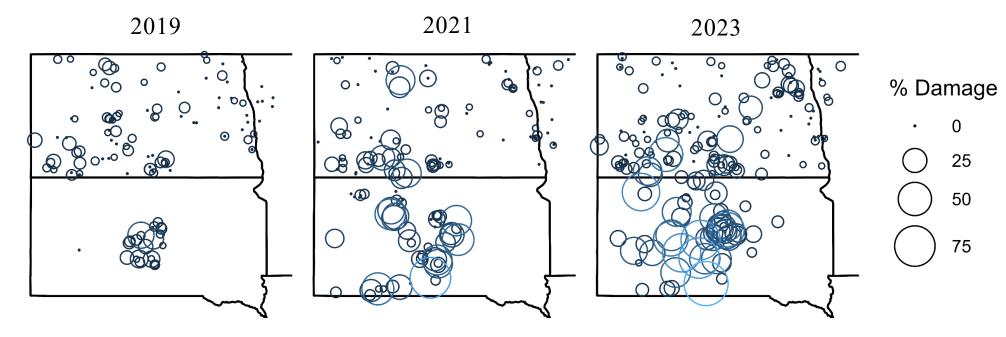


Photo Credit: J. Cluever, J. Cluever, Z. Tarble

Problems with management

- Damage of 70% or more
- Populations many times greater than threshold
- Pyrethroid resistance in SD



Management

- Early Planting
- Tillage
- Insecticide applications at bloom



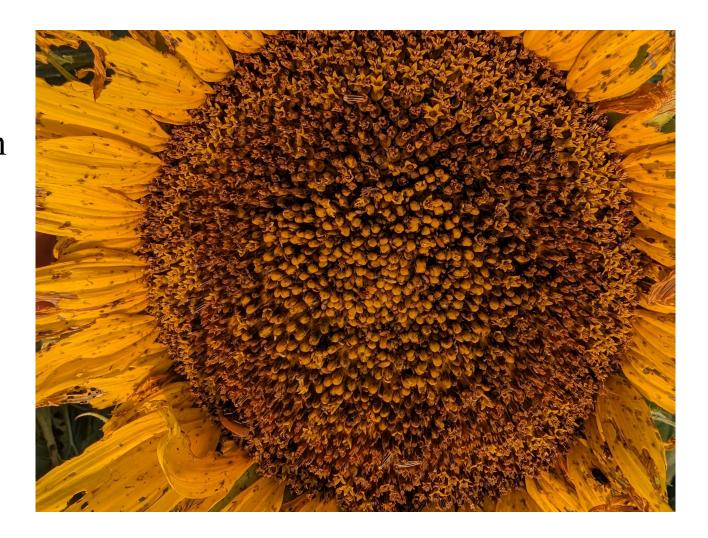


Photo Credit: Winfield Solutions, J. Prasifka

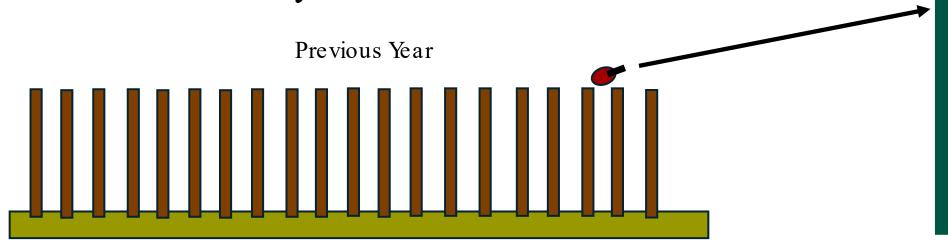
How do you know if a spray is needed?

- Start scouting at R5.0
- Scout at least 75 ft in from the edge
- Check 5 heads at 5 locations
- Use DEET-based repellent
- Continue every 5-7 days
- Thresholds vary 4-15 RSSW/head

Current Year

Why not at the edge?

- Start scouting at R5.0
- Scout at least 75 ft in from the edge
- Check 5 heads at 5 locations
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Methods

- Selected 10 fields in central SD
- Gather 5 heads at 0, 16, 32, 65, 164, 328, and 656 ft in from edge

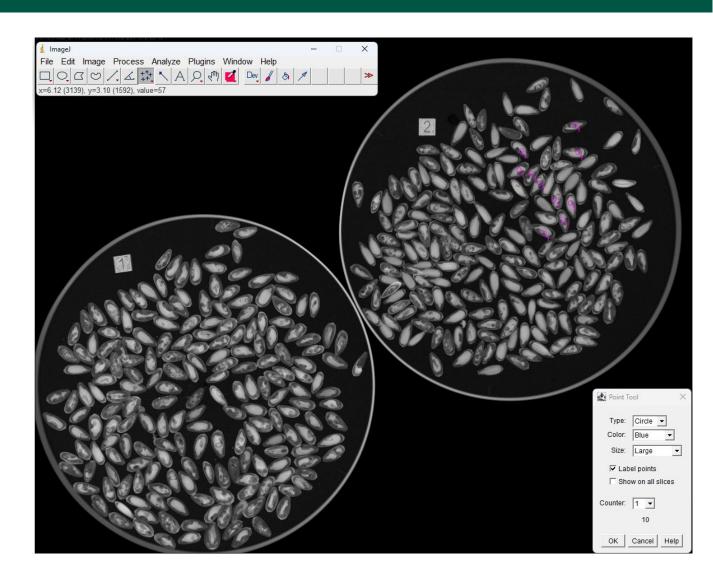


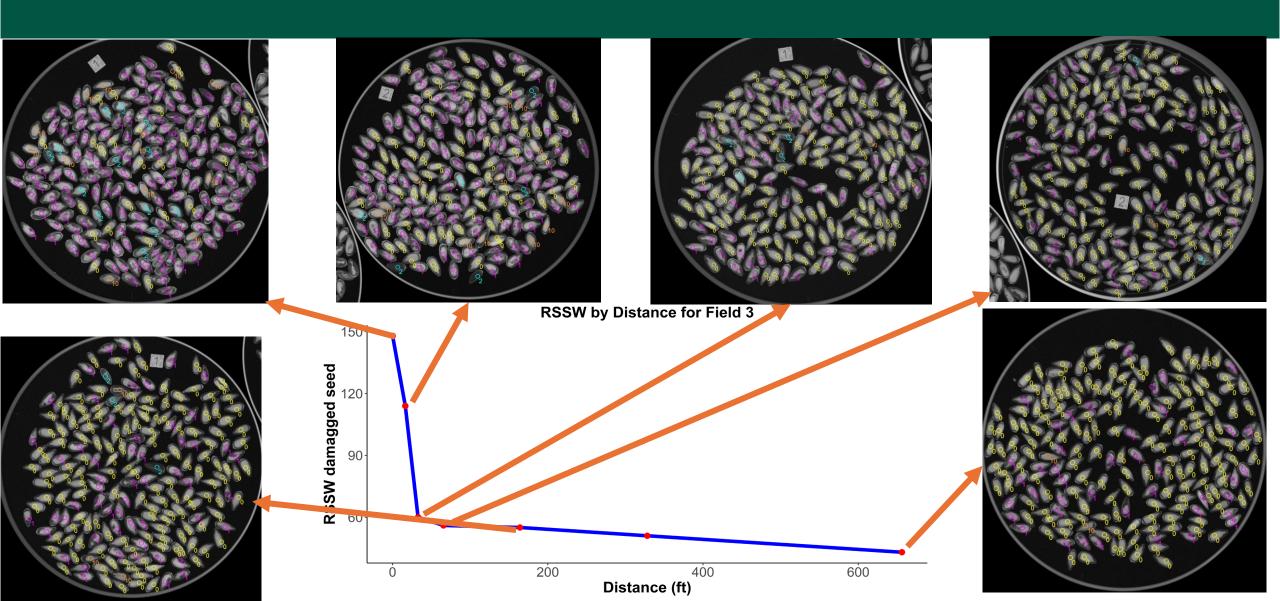


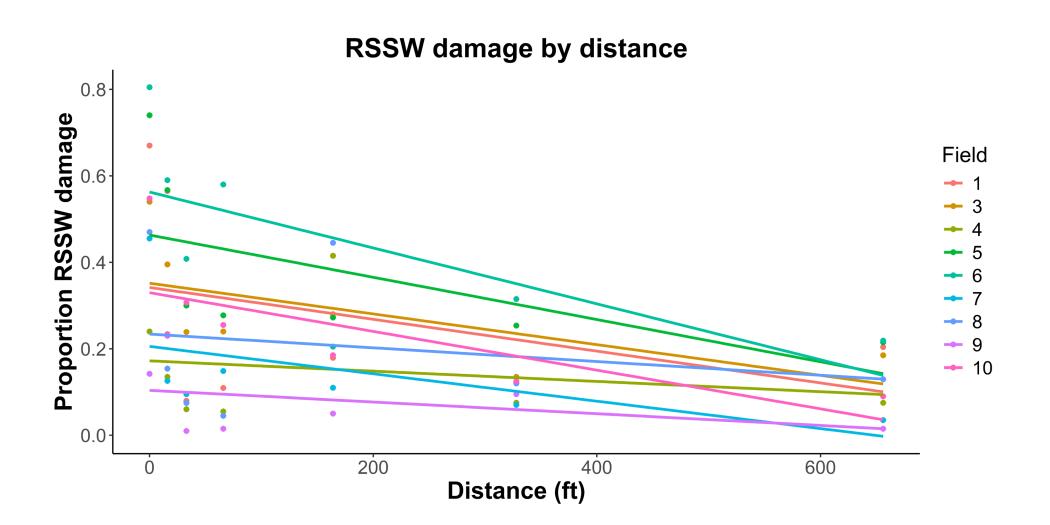
Methods

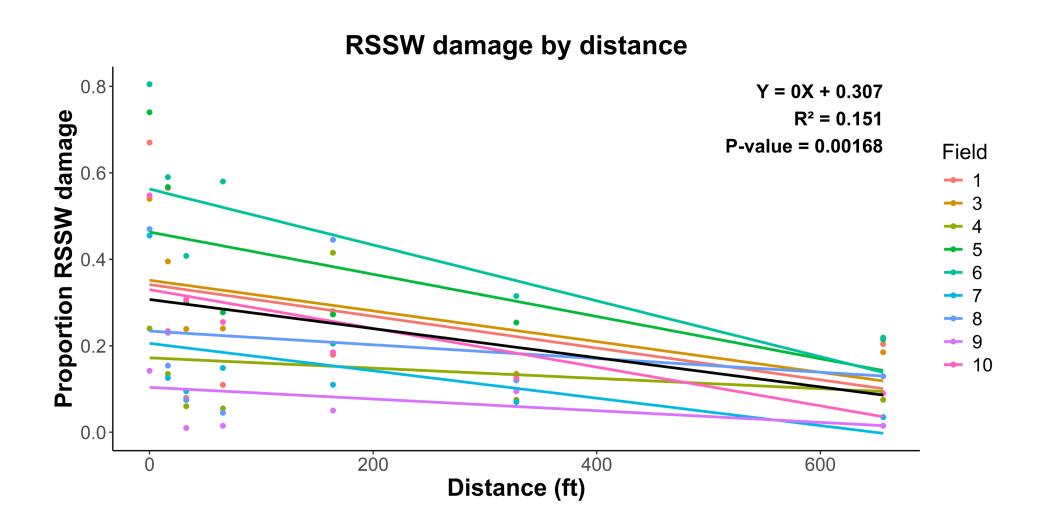
- Dried and threshed heads
- X-ray 200 seed samples
- Visually rated each seed



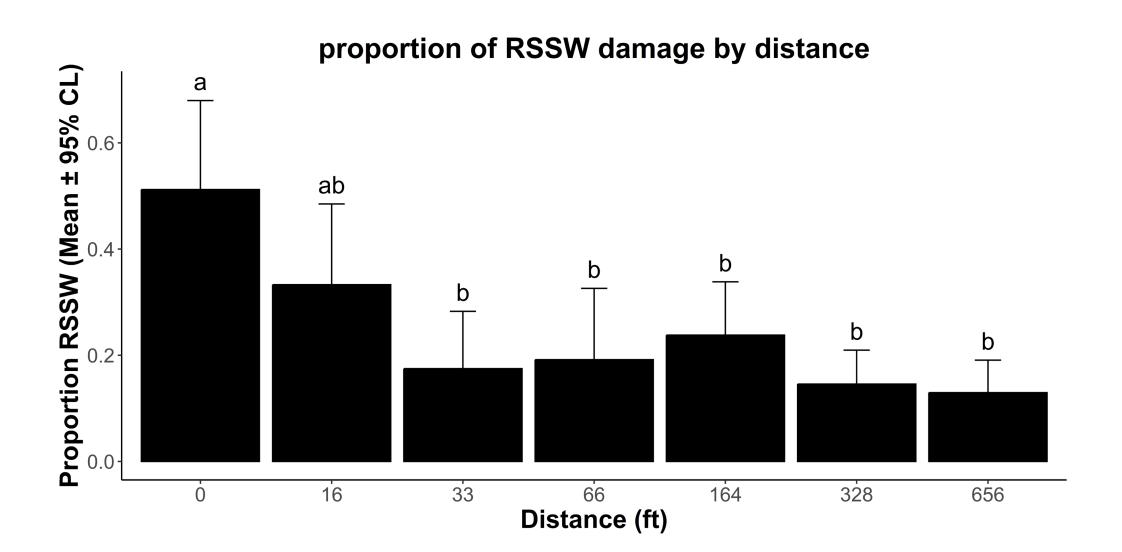


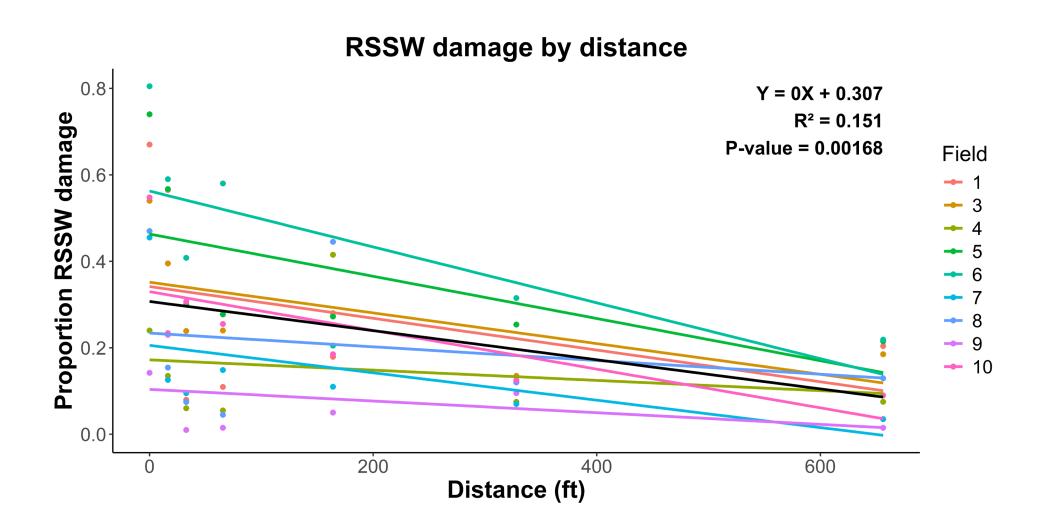


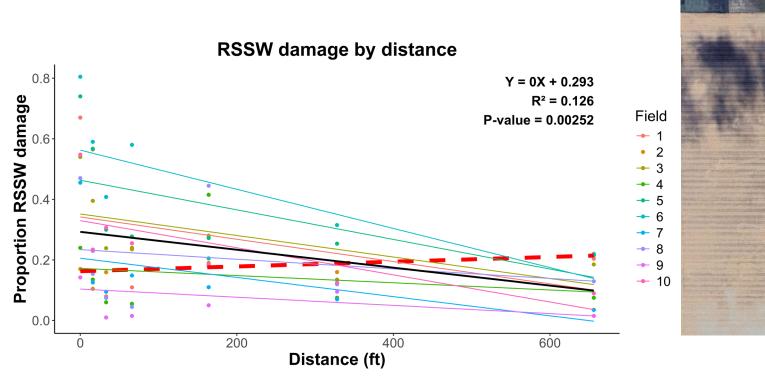


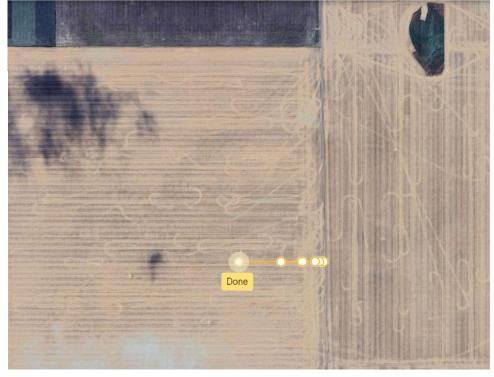


Results: Most damage between 0 and 16 ft









Implications

- Scouting from the edge may overestimate risk
- High RSSW
 - Long, narrow fields may increase your overall damage
 - Adjacent fields may spread out risk
 - Management (tillage, biological insecticides) on edges
- Low RSSW
- Border-only applications may be a feasible method of RSSW control

Acknowledgements

- Grower cooperators
- Questions?

