Timing effective treatment to control sugarcane aphids (SCA) in sorghum depends on the size of the SCA population. Follow these guidelines to make treatment decisions.

### Grain Sorghum Action Threshold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Stage</th>
<th>Decision Threshold Specific to the Sugarcane Aphid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Boot</td>
<td>20% of plants with presence of aphids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boot</td>
<td>20% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowering–Milk</td>
<td>30% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Dough</td>
<td>30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dough</td>
<td>30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Layer</td>
<td>• Heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treatment only for preventing harvest problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Important to observe preharvest intervals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revised from original threshold recommendations from Mississippi State University.
### First Detection: Is the Field at Risk?

- Once a week, walk 25 feet into the field and examine plants along 50 feet of row. Check at least 4 locations per field (total 60–80 plants).
- Inspect underside of leaves from upper and lower canopy from 15–20 plants per location.
- If honeydew is present, look for SCA on the underside of a leaf above the honeydew.
- Sample each side of the field and sites near johnsongrass and tall mutant plants.

### Sampling Decision

- If no SCA are present, or only a few individual wingless/winged aphids are on upper leaves, continue once-a-week scouting.
- If SCA are found on lower or mid-canopy leaves, begin twice-a-week scouting. Use the **Grain Sorghum Action Threshold** (over) to determine if the infestation is at or exceeds the action threshold.

### Control Options after First Application

- Check fields for control after 4–7 days.
- If poor control and aphid colonies of 50 or more per leaf are still present, repeat application.
- If there was good control of the aphid, continue scouting fields twice a week for re-infestation or a rapid increase in aphid numbers.
- For whorl to early dough growth stages, use the **Grain Sorghum Action Threshold** for any second applications.
- From dough to late dough growth stages, a second application may be required when aphids are re-establishing, 40%–50% of the total leaf area has aphid damage, and predator populations are not suppressing aphid populations.
- At black layer growth stage through harvest, an application may be required to prevent harvest problems.

### Forage Sorghum Management

Treatment thresholds have not been determined for forage sorghums. Until thresholds are available, contact your Extension agent–IPM or Extension entomologist.

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**Learn more at Texas Sugarcane Aphid News at**

[http://txscan.blogspot.com](http://txscan.blogspot.com)

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*Photos courtesy of Entomology & Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University.*

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