

Getting Started

Updated May 1, 2006

Welcome to the USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE) Mapping Web Site! The site gives you the latest information on soybean rust and soybean aphid movement including observations, management recommendations, and scouting information. In addition, the site provides tools designed to help soybean producers document their good farming practices. The site is divided into pest specific interfaces; these are soybean rust and soybean aphid. To navigate between the two, use the organism dropdown box in the top right hand corner of the page. All of the site navigation and most of the features are the same for both of these interfaces. However, this “getting started” document is specific to the features available through the soybean aphid interface.

Very Important: To utilize all the features of PIPE site, you must allow pop-us from this site. Please remember this applies to all the pop-up blockers that you may have installed on your system.

Below is a brief outline of how to change the settings in the most common pop-up blockers. However, it’s always best to consult the help in each pop up blocker on how to change the settings or disable the blocker. Whenever possible try to change the settings instead of just disable/turning off the pop-up blocker

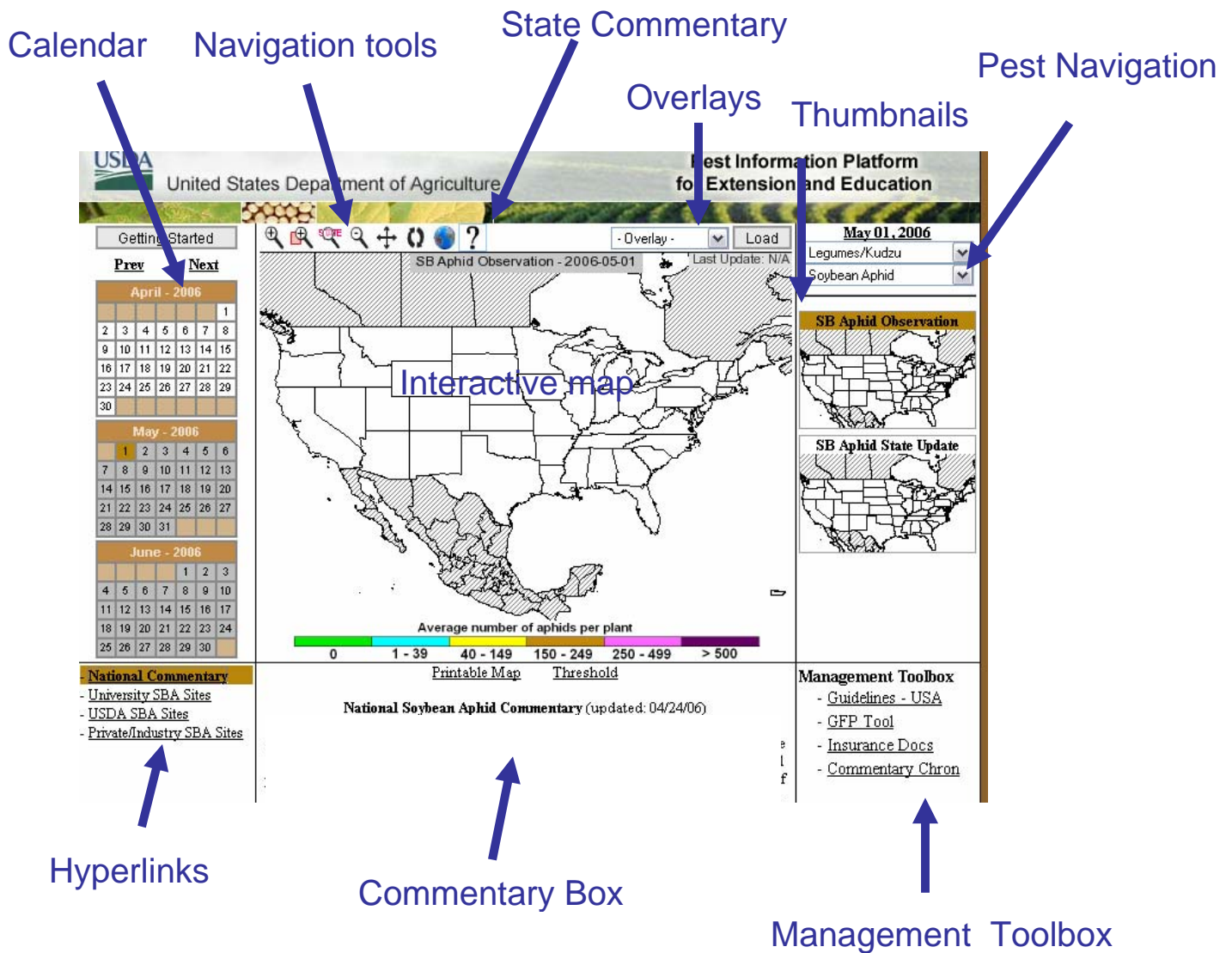
- If using a Google Tool Bar with your browser, click the 'Blocked' button on the tool bar to allow pop-ups for our website (www2.sbrusa.net and www.sbrusa.net)
- If using MS Internet Explorer with service pack two on XP, check go to Tools, Pop-Up Blocker, Pop –Up Blocker Settings, and add www2.sbrusa.net and www.sbrusa.net to the allowed addresses. You can either uncheck the Block pop-ups option or add our web address in the Settings section.
- If using Mozilla Firefox, go to Tools, Options, Web Features. Uncheck 'Block Popup Window'.
- Anti-virus, Anti-spam, Security programs, like Symantec, have an automatic Pop-up Blocker. Please consult the Help portion of these programs for instructions on how to change Pop-Up settings or turn off the Pop-Up blocker.

In some instances, a pop-up will be allowed to open when you hold down the ctrl key while clicking on a link.

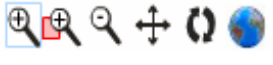






How to use the site

Site Components

The site consists of an Interactive map, Calendar, Map thumbnails, Overlays, Map description, Commentary, Links, and Management Toolbox.



Interactive Map Features

Using the map navigation tools , you can zoom in  or out , zoom in to a specific state using the state zoom tool dropdown , pan , refresh  and go to the full map view . The tool selected will be outlined by a blue box. Zoom in, zoom out, or pan tool will focus the navigation on the area under your cursors. When using the zoom box tool, select the area of interest by clicking on the map and holding down the mouse and then dragging the mouse to create a box around you area of interest. As you zoom in, county boundaries will appear and a state link category will be displayed at the bottom left corner of the page when state links are available. Also, as you zoom in to a state the US soybean aphid tactics and guidelines will be replaced by state specific ones, if those have been provided and the state commentary will replace the national commentary in the commentary box, if it has been provided. Sometimes when selecting a large state from the state zoom tool, you will need to use an additional zoom in tool to see county boundaries and other state specific features.

There is also a query tool [?](#), you can use this tool to see the available state update for a specific state. By selecting the query tool, a new window (commentary window) will open, from either the Observation or State Update Map. When you are in the state commentary window, you can choose to view state specific commentary for other states by selecting the state from the drop down at the top of the page.

Soybean Aphid Interactive Maps - Map Description

The two maps available on the interface are Observation (default) and State Update Map. The **Observation map** shows the average number of aphids per plant for scouted locations.

The information displayed on the **State Update Map** is updated by state specialists, who make their interpretations and recommendations at the state level. It contains commentary at the state level on pests of legumes/kudzu, specifically soybean aphid and soybean rust, and possibly other diseases and insects as well. The commentary information is subdivided into five portions: Crop Growth Stages, Observation and Outlook – Disease, Observation and Outlook – Insect, Scouting and Management - Disease, Scouting and Management - Insect. The colors on the State Update Map represent when commentary has been provided by the specialist for the insect portions of the commentary. The darkest color represents the most recent update available for either of the two insect portions of the commentary based on the date selected on the calendar, and the colors progressively fade to reflect earlier commentaries. Even though the color turns to white if the insect portion of the commentary has not been updated for 10 days, the commentary text is still viewable.

Commentary (State Update Map)

When zooming from the national to state level, the state commentary is shown, if available, in the commentary box. You can select “more” to see the full state update. You can also view the state commentary by selecting the query tool and clicking on a state of interest from either of the interactive maps. In both cases, a new commentary window will open to display the full state commentary. You will notice that each of the five sections of the commentary has a separate update date. Also, states may have included some state specific documents and/or contact information on the bottom of the commentary page. In the commentary window, you can view commentary for another state by choosing that state from the dropdown on the top of the page. You will notice that a state in the dropdown box may have an update date; that is the latest update for any of the sections in the commentary.

Calendar

The calendar on the left hand side enables the user to move back in time to view national as well as state commentaries, older documents, and progression of observations. However, it is not possible to move forward in time past the current date.

Map thumbnails

The thumbnail maps on the right-hand side allow the user to select the Observation or State Update Map for display in the large screen area. The selected map then becomes interactive.

Overlay

Using the dropdown arrow, each map can be overlaid with interstate roads, soybean production areas and major cities. It is only possible to view one overlay at a time. To see the overlay appear, click the load button after selection. To remove an overlay, just select “overlay” and click load.

Management Toolbox

This feature provides a variety of management tools both on state and national levels.

The U.S Soybean Aphid Tactics and Guidelines are displayed by default, when available. However as you zoom to a state level, state Specific Tactics and Guidelines will replace the national ones if they are available, if not, the national ones will continue to be displayed. Use the calendar to view older Tactics and Guidelines. Tactics and Guidelines will open in a new window.

The Insurance Docs tool displays a list of documents provided by Risk Management Agency (RMA) needed to substantiate best management practices or to file a crop insurance claim.

The Good Farming Practice (GFP) tool provides the growers with a capacity to document their best farming practices. This tool has a specific help option that you are strongly encouraged to read prior to using it for the first time. The GFP Tool can either be accessed from the Toolbox or from a state commentary window.

Commentary chronology can either be used to list commentary available for a single or multiple states for a specific date, or to see the updates in the commentary for specific state(s) for a defined date range. To use this tool, first select the state or states of interest; to select multiple states hold down the ctrl key. If you want to list the commentary for a specific date just select that date from the “commentary available on” dropdown box. However, if you also want to see the change in the commentary over time, select the beginning date from the “commentary available on” dropdown and then click the checkbox by “include updates through” part and select an end date. The commentary text will be displayed below the selection criteria ordered by state and date. To conduct another search just change the selection criteria at the top.

Links

This section provides connections to web sites with soybean aphid information, partner sites, and links to variety of other education and extension resources. The links are divided into categories. When you select a category the actual links will be displayed in the commentary box in the bottom middle of the page, after you select a specific link that site will open in a new window. When you are zoomed to a specific state, the state specific link category will be displayed, if state links have been provided. If you select that state link category, the actual links will be displayed in the commentary box, the same as for national links. You always have an option to select the commentary link to

have the state or national commentary, depending on your view extent, display back in the commentary box.

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