



THE PULSE AGRONOMY NETWORK
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

PAN PEST REPORT #3 – Pea Leaf Weevil Update, Grasshopper Update - May 31, 2006

PLEASE NOTE - Be advised that areas not mentioned in this report may in fact be under disease / pest pressure... Scouting helps in managing problems. If you see something - please let us know. Email reply or leave a message at 1-866-897-8573

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Ashley Beagle of B&B Ag Service in the **Arrowwood**, AB reports “We have started to see some PLW damage in peas. They seem to be moving in from the headlands, as the crop damage is greater on the perimeter of the field and very low near the center of the fields. Most plants along the perimeter have at least 25% or greater leaf damage. Along with finding the damaged leaves, we have been able to capture a few pests as they move quite slowly in the cool evening temperatures. We had rain this weekend and will have great growing conditions this week, so it is most likely the grower will not spray insecticide as his peas should pass the 6th node in the next few days.

Rusty Stinn from **Lethbridge** reports finding pea leaf weevil damage to faba beans in Lethbridge area.

Karen Murray of Lakeside Fertilizer in Medicine Hat reports that “we have seen evidence of the pea leaf weevils south of **Medicine Hat, Seven Persons** area.
I also went to check north of the river, north of Bow Island and there aren't any up there. Although there isn't alot of farm land up there so the peas are surrounded by pasture.

Grasshopper Update

Submitted by Dan Johnson UofL – May 19, 2006

I checked for hatching while traveling from Lethbridge to Calgary and back. (I have no budget for any kind of formal survey, but because I know all the species in all stages, I check when I can, as a hobby for the time being.) Today, May 19, and yesterday, May 18, there were significant numbers of hatching hoppers out already. Most of these were the two-striped grasshopper, which makes sense because it was the most embryonically advanced and ready to hatch. Hatching around May 18 is earlier than most years, but numbers are lower, on average. But locally, numbers can be high. South of Calgary I saw a spot with more than 30 per square meter. Most of these were 1st and 2nd instar, but about 10% were 3rd instar. The bottom line is that although overall numbers are down, the early hatching that resulted from the heat could mean localized risk to crops during early June, and even in late May in some areas. This is the situation that occurred in 2004, but rain and cold in late May set the grasshoppers back. If we continue to have hot weather, they will maximize their potential and catch up somewhat, even though they are entering the year with lower than average numbers of eggs.

The two-striped grasshopper is a common crop pest that attacks barley, wheat, lentils, alfalfa, brome, canola, and a range of other crops. The photos are of the early immature stages that will be seen now and in early June.



Two-striped grasshopper a few hours old.



Two-striped grasshopper – 3rd instar



Two-striped grasshopper – 4th instar

The adult stages can be recognized from the photos at the top and at the bottom of the site below, where it says "Pictures".

http://www.cgkids.ca/cgkids/animal/2006_02_grasshopper.asp

Note that in the area around Edmonton, there is a 5-year infestation now by an unusual grasshopper called the Bruner's spur-throated grasshopper, which can severely damage alfalfa and other broad-leaf crops. In east-central Alberta, the clear-winged grasshopper will hatch this week and continue next week (black and white in the first instar, dark brown in the later immature stages). Numbers are lower than in 2002-2003, for example, but in isolated areas they could move into crop margins.

Any grasshopper that is flying or appears to have wings at this time of year is not a pest. Any grasshopper that makes any kind of singing, chirping or clacking, is not a pest species.

Dan Johnson

We are interested in hearing where the PLW has been sighted and the level of damage observed. Email a reply or call into the PEST REPORT Hotline at 1-866-897-8573