



THE PULSE AGRONOMY NETWORK
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

PAN PEST REPORT #4 – Insect Update

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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- Insect update – northern and southern Alberta

Thanks to Jennifer Otani, AAFC Beaverlodge and Héctor A. Cárcamo, AAFC Lethbridge for these informal insect observations.

Jennifer Otani reports:

From the week of May 22nd

- a) Some flea beetle activity was reported near Valhalla and Girouxville the week of May 22nd and I heard of three fields that were re-seeded due to severe damage. Both our commercial field and on-station monitoring is showing mainly striped (*Phyllotreta striolata*) and hop (*Pysliodes punctulata*) flea beetles but few crucifer (*Phyllotreta cruciferae*) flea beetles on our yellow sticky cards. Numbers are ranging from 0 to 25 flea beetles per card within spring-seeded fields of commercial canola.
- b) There have been reports of four or five stands of older (6-8 yrs old) timothy that were affected by glassy cutworms near Falher and Spirit River. Most of these same fields have been re-seeded.

We were out in the field near Girouxville and Falher on June 1st and noticed a few things of note:

- c) A couple 2nd instar two-striped grasshopper nymphs turned up in a ditch – not huge numbers where we noticed them but this indicates they're hatching so start watching field margins.
- d) A few Click beetle adults in the ditch (juvenile stages are wireworms) – while the ditch isn't economically important, the fact they these are getting easier to find is definitely noteworthy.
- e) A few Lygus bug nymphs at the 2nd instar stage in clover – this seems a little early in the year for this stage to already be making an appearance. Odd too that there weren't any alfalfa plant bug nymphs visible in the same clover (red and alsike) because they're usually present earlier in the season compared to lygus bug nymphs.

Jennifer Otani, M.Sc.
Pest Management Biologist
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Héctor A. Cárcamo reports:

From the south:

- 1) the most obvious or novel insect problem is pea leaf weevil, with thousands of pea acres being sprayed right now, especially around the Foremost area; some reports of damage to alfalfa seedlings have not been confirmed; Scott has a student doing a survey to better understand the spread of this new pest

- 2) my technicians collected a cereal leaf beetle just across the research centre in April this year (at least one overwintered here); both Lloyd and Keith have students doing an extensive survey this year.
- 3) Another cereal pest expected to continue but at lower levels (?) is the wheat stem sawfly (adults will start flying in about 3 weeks); more growers are planting solid stems which will help
- 4) cabbage seedpod weevils are very numerous in cruciferous weeds like flixweed and should be watched in canola, especially early planted fields
- 5) lygus bugs are average or below average, less than one per sweep in weeds; they are around the 3rd instar now, which is normal for us. Because of their explosive nature, we still should keep an eye on them if the weather gets hot and dry, especially in late planted canola.
- 6) Flea beetles were slow to come out but over the past few weeks we have noticed several flixweed plants were covered with them. However in 2 of 3 fields we are monitoring them intensively they were very low with no noticeable damage on seedlings (treated seed). This insect can be more pesky in late planted fields in our area.
- 7) Others: Aphodius beetles (Scarabeidae), these are beetle grubs that occasionally are abundant in turf that has lots of manure; they are not pests rather beneficials that break down organic matter; check out Kevin Floates' web page for more on these critters.
- 8) Other Lepidoptera, such as cutworms, diamond back, Bertha might present localized problems but I have not heard any direct reports

Héctor A. Cárcamo, Ph D
Research Scientist, Insect Pest Management
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lethbridge, AB