

## INSECT MONITORING REPORT

*Summarized Report for June 10-16, 2010*

**BEET LEAFHOPPERS:** We found beet leafhoppers (BLH) in and around more potato fields in the Columbia Basin this week. BLH were trapped at 38 of 74 locations last week, but this week we found them at 50 of 74 locations. For the most part, the counts have been low and only two locations had more than 40 BLH/trap. Mattawa traps averaged 19.3 BLH/trap and ranged 6-34 BLH/trap. Traps in the North Basin (excluding Mattawa) averaged 5.1 BLH/trap and ranged 0-55 BLH/trap. Traps in the South Basin averaged 5.8 BLH/trap and ranged 0-51 BLH/trap.

**Recommendations:** Beet leafhoppers are important pests because they transmit BLTVA, a phytoplasma that causes purple top disease in potatoes. In 2002, purple top was widespread and resulted in significant yield losses in potato fields across the Columbia Basin. It continues to be a problem every year. We recommend growers deploy at least two yellow sticky traps around the margins of each potato field to monitor BLH. Treatment thresholds have not been established for BLH in potatoes, but we know that the risk of infection increases as the number of BLH increase. Monitor your traps weekly and watch for the numbers to increase. If the numbers build to 40-100 BLH/week, you should probably be concerned. For more information about BLH, go to *IPM Guidelines for Insects and Mites in ID, OR, and WA Potatoes*. This publication lists several foliar insecticides that may be used to control BLH. In the Columbia Basin, these insecticides are usually applied in May, June, and or July to target BLH. It should be noted that most at-planting applied insecticides are not recommended to control BLH in potatoes because they may not provide adequate protection to limit the spread of BLTVA. More research is needed, and is currently underway.

**POTATO TUBERWORM:** No potato tuberworm moths were found in Washington survey traps this week. In the Columbia Basin, tuberworm trapping is most important in July or August through harvest, because this is when potato tubers become infested.

**APHIDS:** Aphid sampling results have been added to the data mapping system. We found aphids in 8 of 34 potato fields sampled this week. Most of these were winged aphids. They were found in three fields in Franklin County, four fields in Grant County, and one field in Adams County. The average counts were all less than 1 aphid/plant.

**Recommendations:** Potato growers should be checking their fields regularly for aphids. Right now, aphids are most likely to be seen in fields that did not receive an insecticide treatment at planting. If your field was treated at planting, you can expect from 50 to 100 days of residual control, depending on what was applied. Fields treated with imidacloprid (Admire Pro, Gaucho), thiamethoxam (Platinum, Cruiser), or clothianidin (Belay) at planting should have reliable aphid control for 80 to 100 days after planting. Aldicarb (Temik) will provide approximately 70 to 75 days of control. Phorate (Thimet, Phorate) does not provide reliable control of aphids beyond 50 days. For more information about managing aphids in potatoes go to *IPM Guidelines for Insects and Mites in ID, OR, and WA Potatoes*.

**OTHER INSECT PESTS:** We also observed some thrips, lygus bugs, leafhoppers, and Colorado potato beetles while sampling fields. Thrips were seen in most fields, but the numbers were very low.