

INSECT MONITORING REPORT

Summarized Report for June 3-9, 2010

BEET LEAFHOPPERS: Beet leafhopper (BLH) populations are slowly increasing across the Columbia Basin. The Mattawa, WA area continues to have the highest trap counts. Mattawa traps averaged 14.8 BLH/trap and ranged 2-26 BLH/trap. Traps in the North Basin (excluding Mattawa) averaged 4.1 BLH/trap and ranged 0-28 BLH/trap. Traps in the South Basin averaged 3 BLH/trap and ranged 0-21 BLH/trap. A graph of BLH population trends has been added to the website.

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. Now is the time to monitor BLH populations closely, because potato plants are most likely to develop purple top when infected early in the season. 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 against 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: Most of the fields we sampled this week had no aphids, but we did find some. The majority were winged green peach aphids. The aphids were found in two fields in Franklin County and three fields in Grant County. The average counts were less than 1 aphid/plant. 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 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.

BENEFICIAL INSECTS: Big-eyed bugs were observed in most of the fields we sampled this week.