INSECT MONITORING REPORTS
*Summarized Report for May 13-19, 2010*

**BEET LEAFHOPPERS:** If you are growing potatoes in the Mattawa area, you need to be aware of the beet leafhopper (BLH) situation! **We are finding near-record numbers of BLH in the Mattawa area, especially for May.** Mattawa area traps averaged 135 BLH/trap and ranged from 8 to 388 BLH/trap.

As expected, BLH populations are also beginning to build in other parts of the Columbia Basin. Traps in the West Basin (excluding Mattawa) averaged 1.6 BLH/trap and ranged 0 to 12 BLH/trap. Traps in the North Basin (E. Moses Lake, Warden, Othello) averaged 0.6 BLH/trap and ranged from 0 to 5 BLH/trap. Traps in the South Basin averaged 0.5 BLH/trap and ranged 0 to 4 BLH/trap. These counts are low right now, but watch for them to increase over the next few weeks. **Click on the map below to view recent data for the region.**

**Recommendations:** Beet leafhoppers are the only known vector of BLTVA, which causes a disease known as purple top in potatoes. BLH populations in the Columbia Basin usually begin to build in late May and increase through June. **Now is the time to monitor BLH populations, because potato plants are most likely to develop purple top when infected early in the season** (the first eight weeks of plant growth). 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. If you are finding more than 40 BLH in your traps, it may be time to worry. The publication, IPM Guidelines for Insects and Mites in ID, OR, and WA Potatoes, provides information about several foliar insecticides that may be used to control BLH. These insecticides are usually applied in May and June in the Columbia Basin. Insecticides applied at planting are not recommended to control BLH on potatoes, because there is evidence that they do not provide adequate protection against the spread of BLTVA.

**POTATO TUBERWORM**: There were no potato tuberworm moths found in survey traps this week.