

*Summarized Report for May 22-29, 2009*

We are beginning to find beet leafhoppers (BLH) in traps near potato fields around the Columbia Basin. In the Lower Columbia Basin, BLH counts ranged 0-26 per trap and averaged (7.9). In the Upper Columbia Basin, BLH counts ranged 0-7 per trap and averaged (1.3).

Beet leafhoppers are the only known vector of BLTVA, which causes a disease commonly known as purple top. BLH populations in the Columbia Basin usually begin to build in late May and increase through June. Now is the time to closely monitor BLH populations, because most BLTVA infections occur early in the season (the first eight weeks of plant growth). Treatment thresholds have not been established for BLH in potatoes, but we know that the risk for BLTVA infection increases as the number of BLH increase. If you are finding more than 40 BLH in your traps, it may be time to get worried. We recommend that every grower deploy at least two yellow sticky traps around the margins of each potato field to monitor BLH. Follow the link to "IPM Guidelines for Insects and Mites in Potatoes" for more information about monitoring BLH and managing BLTVA (p. 23-32).

No potato tuberworm moths were found in the project traps this week.