INSECT MONITORING REPORTS
Summarized Report for May 6-12, 2010

BEET LEAFHOPPERS: Beet leafhoppers (BLH) were found in traps near Mattawa this week, where the counts averaged 34 BLH/trap and ranged 0-203 BLH. There were no BLH found in survey traps outside of Mattawa this week. 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.