

INSECT MONITORING REPORTS
Report for Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2011

POTATO TUBERWORM: Potato tuberworm (PTW) moth numbers continue to rise very slowly in the southern Columbia Basin. One moth was trapped in the north Basin this week. We collected moths in ten of our network traps this week in WA; one trap near Warden with 1 moth/trap, three traps near Eltopia with 1 moth/trap, two traps near Pasco with 6-7 moths/trap, one off of the Kahlotus Hwy with 4 moths/trap, one near Burbank, WA with 2 moths/trap, one south of Kennewick with 1 moth/trap, and one close to the Oregon border with 39 moths/trap. These trap catches are not very large for this time of year (except for the trap near the OR border). We were catching more moths this time last year. A graph showing the average PTW moth counts in the Columbia Basin this season can be seen below. The graph also shows the average moth counts in the south Basin in 2010 for comparison.

Management Recommendations: Cultural methods reported to reduce PTW damage include 1) eliminating cull piles and volunteers to reduce overwintering stages of PTW; 2) maintaining soil moisture (apply 0.1" per day) after vine kill to prevent soil cracking; 3) minimizing the time between desiccation and harvest; and 4) maintaining more than 2" of soil over tubers during the season, and covering hills with 1-2" of soil after vine kill. Insecticide spray programs beginning 4-8 weeks before harvest have been successful in reducing tuberworm in potato tubers. For a list of products recommended for PTW control go to ***IPM Guidelines for Insects and Mites in ID, OR, and WA Potatoes.***