Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry
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Beet Leafhopper Numbers are High

Andy Jensen, WSPC

The regional beet leafhopper trapping program is underway this season in the Oregon Columbia Basin and much of the WA Basin. The first week of counts in WA indicate that beet leafhopper populations are very high this year. As an example, below are the counts from the week ending May 22 for 56 and 57 traps, respectively, from 2005 and 2004 (Table 1). Clearly there were about 5 times as many leafhoppers trapped this year as compared to last year. Leafhoppers are more abundant toward the south, but there are plenty throughout the Basin. For the most recent trapping data, see the following web site: http://www.potatoes.com/Research.cfm.

Table 1. Total leafhoppers trapped in one week in May of 2005 and 2004, on 56 and 57 traps respectively, from the Washington Columbia Basin north of Pasco.

Collection Dates	Number of Beet Leafhoppers	Area covered by traps
5/21-22/2004	123	Pasco and north to Quincy and Ruff
5/20,23/2005	593	Eltopia and north to Ruff and George

We strongly urge growers to monitor their fields and field margins for leafhoppers. Yellow sticky traps should be placed among weeds surrounding your fields, about 2-3" above the ground or plant canopy. Put traps among broadleaf weeds, especially where they are sparse or mowed regularly. These cards should be checked and replaced at least weekly. If you are unsure about identification of beet leafhopper, send or bring your traps to me at the commission office or to other persons who can recognize beet leafhopper for you. Recent research has shown that a large percentage of beet leafhoppers carry the BLTVA disease year-around. This means that any and all beet leafhoppers should be considered dangerous.

Other observations of leafhoppers in experimental potato plots have found beet leafhoppers active in potatoes already this week. **Growers throughout the Columbia Basin should be controlling beet leafhopper in their potato crops now.** The potato IPM guidelines prepared by Pacific Northwest entomologists can be found at the website listed above, and contain much information on leafhoppers and their control.

Join us for a discussion of

Potato Tuber Moth: Prospects for Control and Current Research

Sponsored by:
Oregon State University and the
Washington State Potato Commission

Experts at Hand:

- George Clough, Sandra DeBano, and Phil Hamm, OSU, Hermiston
- Andrew Jensen, Washington Potato Commission
- Joseph Munyaneza, USDA-ARS, Wapato
- Alan Schreiber, Agricultural Development Group, Inc.

Two Times and Locations for Your Convenience:

June 1, 2005, 10:00 AM - Noon
OSU Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center

and

June 2, 2005, 10:00 AM – Noon
Red Lion, Pasco, WA

Topics Covered:

- PTM Monitoring Data: Winter and Spring Trends
- PTM Biology and Suggested Practices for Control
- Current and Future Research