



# Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry  
Published by Washington State Potato Commission [www.potatoes.com](http://www.potatoes.com)  
Andrew Jensen, Editor. Submit articles and comments to: [ajensen@potatoes.com](mailto:ajensen@potatoes.com)  
108 Interlake Rd., Moses Lake, WA 98837; Fax: 509-765-4853; Phone: 509-765-8845.

Volume VI, Number 5

May 25, 2006

## Beet Leafhopper Status and Information

It is once again the time of year to worry about beet leafhopper and the purple top disease it transmits. The potato commission has been conducting a trapping network again this year, including leafhopper traps. Oregon State University in Hermiston is also trapping leafhoppers. Beet leafhopper numbers have been extremely low throughout our trapping regions up till the week ending May 20. It is not clear whether it was the hot weather that affected trap catch, or that the increased catch reflects threatening movement of leafhoppers. Certainly the upsurge in catch (see Table 1) suggests careful attention to leafhoppers in the coming weeks is prudent. To monitor for beet leafhopper we strongly suggest deploying yellow sticky traps near your potato fields. These should be placed near the ground among weeds (sparse weeds are better), and away from dusty roads. Traps should be checked at least weekly.

Table 1. Beet leafhopper counts on yellow sticky traps in four growing regions, 2006. Counts are totals of all traps in each region.

Trapping Region	Week Ending April 30	Week Ending May 7	Week Ending May 14	Week Ending May 21
Oregon (35 traps)	--	87	94	277
Eltopia north to Othello (32 traps)	6	1	7	153
Othello north to Moses Lake (32 traps)	1	0	1	31
North of Moses Lake (16 traps)	0	0	0	0

To help the industry deal with this pest, the potato commission has produced a pest identification card. It is a 6x9" laminated card with full color pictures and information about beet leafhopper and purple top. All growers in our database have been mailed a card for free. Anyone else interested in the card can view it on the potato commission's website, [www.potatoes.com/research.cfm](http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm), or contact the office for a hard copy. Cost of hard copies for all persons who are not Washington growers will be \$5.

As always, if you need any help or have questions related to leafhoppers or purple top, please feel free to contact Andy Jensen at the potato commission, or Joe Munyaneza at the USDA-ARS location near Yakima (509-454-6564).

## Potato Tuberworm Samples are Requested for a Distribution Study

Silvia I. Rondon<sup>1</sup> and Raul F. Medina<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oregon State University, Crop and Soil Science, Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Hermiston; <sup>2</sup> Texas A&M University, Department of Entomology, College Station, Texas.

The potato industry in Oregon and Washington is assessing which are the best options to control the potato tuberworm (PTW) this year. We know that PTW is one of the most important potato pests worldwide and one of the most difficult to control. In 2005, PTW spread extensively across OR and WA and currently threatens about 200,000 acres of potatoes valued at more than \$500 million. To determine the origin of PTW Columbia Basin populations, **we need your help**. In 2006, we plan to collect PTW samples from all major potato production areas in the U.S (Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah); we hope to include samples from South America (Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador) as well.

### How can you help?

If there are PTW in your area, please, send us samples (20-30 moths per host-plant species per site). Adult moths can be collected with an insect net or vacuum. They can be killed and shipped in 70-100% alcohol. Please, include the following information with your sample:

Place where sample was collected: (i.e. OR)

Host-plant species: (i.e potato, weeds):

Date of collection:

Collector:

Specimens should be sent to Dr. Medina at: Texas A&M University, Department of Entomology, College Station TX 77843-2475, USA.

If you have any questions relating to this effort or related to any other PTW issue, please contact Silvia I. Rondon, OSU, HAREC ([silvia.rondon@oregonstate.edu](mailto:silvia.rondon@oregonstate.edu)).

## Washington Potato Acreage, Production, and Storage Data

Crop Year	Harvested Acreage	Yield Per Harvested Acre (cwt)	Production Tons/A (000cwt)	Stocks on Hand (000 cwt)							
				Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	
1966	58,000	376	18.8	21,830	18,300	7,150	5,500	3,950			
1967	64,000	345	17.3	22,090	10,660	8,800	6,600	4,400			
1968	64,000	378	18.9	24,173	10,430	8,800	7,050	5,100			
1969	71,700	415	20.8	29,796	15,300	13,100	10,300	7,800			
1970	87,000	386	19.3	33,590	18,500	16,000	12,500	9,700			
1971	78,000	386	19.3	30,110	16,450	13,500	10,350	7,500			
1972	75,000	418	20.9	31,365	15,800	13,400	10,300	7,100	4,200		
1973	82,000	430	21.5	35,260	18,600	15,600	12,600	9,100	5,500		
1974	98,000	420	21.0	41,160	22,500	20,500	16,800	12,800	8,900		
1975	105,000	460	23.0	48,300	27,900	24,100	19,900	11,500	10,000		
1976	124,000	450	22.5	55,800	33,200	29,700	25,000	20,100	15,200		
1977	110,000	460	23.0	50,600	28,400	24,700	20,800	15,900	11,300		
1978	109,000	465	23.3	50,685	32,000	28,800	24,000	19,300	14,500	9,500	
1979	103,000	475	23.8	48,450	30,800	27,300	23,300	19,000	14,400	10,500	
1980	87,000	505	25.3	43,935	24,300	22,000	18,500	14,600	10,900	7,200	
1981	108,000	490	24.5	52,920	29,200	25,100	21,000	17,000	12,600	8,200	
1982	110,000	480	24.0	52,800	29,200	25,100	21,600	17,100	13,200	8,600	
1983	103,000	520	26.0	53,560	29,500	25,600	21,800	16,500	11,000	7,100	
1984	115,000	495	24.8	56,925	29,600	25,900	20,800	16,600	11,300	7,000	
1985	127,000	505	24.3	61,100	33,500	30,000	25,700	21,000	16,200	9,700	
1986	118,000	510	25.5	60,200	32,300	28,000	24,400	20,400	14,600	8,700	
1987	124,000	540	27.0	67,000	36,600	32,900	28,300	22,800	17,500	12,400	
1988	115,000	550	27.5	63,300	36,700	32,100	27,700	22,500	16,200	10,700	
1989	118,000	545	27.3	64,310	34,500	30,400	25,100	20,000	13,100	7,100	
1990	132,000	515	25.8	67,980	35,500	29,500	24,500	19,800	15,100	10,400	
1991	141,000	535	26.8	75,440	37,000	32,200	27,000	21,200	15,000	9,600	
1992	125,000	525	26.3	69,300	31,000	26,700	24,900	19,800	13,000	8,200	
1993	150,000	590	29.5	88,500	43,500	38,500	32,000	26,500	20,000	13,500	
1994	152,000	585	29.3	88,900	47,500	43,000	37,500	30,500	23,500	17,000	
1995	147,000	550	27.5	80,850	39,500	33,000	30,500	25,000	18,000	12,500	
1996	161,000	590	29.5	94,990	48,000	42,000	36,500	30,000	23,000	16,500	
1997	152,000	580	29.0	88,060	47,000	41,500	36,500	29,500	22,500	16,000	
1998	165,000	565	28.3	93,225	49,000	43,500	36,500	29,500	21,500	14,500	7,500
1999	170,000	560	28.0	95,200	48,000	41,000	35,000	28,000	20,500	14,500	7,000
2000	175,000	600	30.0	105,000	59,000	52,000	44,500	37,500	29,500	21,500	13,000
2001	160,000	590	29.5	94,400	53,000	45,500	40,000	32,500	25,000	18,000	10,000
2002	165,000	560	28.0	92,400	53,000	46,500	40,000	33,000	25,500	19,500	12,000
2003	162,000	575	28.8	93,150	51,000	44,000	38,000	29,500	21,500	15,000	7,000
2004	159,000	590	29.5	93,810	50,000	43,000	36,500	29,000	22,000	15,500	8,000
2005	154,000	620	31.0	95,480	52,000	46,000	40,000	32,000	24,500	17,000	

Data from National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Field Day Dates to Remember

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 am, WSU Seed Lot Field Day, Othello Research Unit. Lunch provided.

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am, USDA-ARS Potato Cropping Systems Field Day at Paterson. Lunch provided.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 am, Potato Pest Management Field Day, Eltopia area. Lunch provided.

---

## Updates and Information Available at the Potato Commission Website

Staff here at the potato commission are constantly working to provide useful information to industry on the research segment of our website, [www.potatoes.com/research.cfm](http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm). Items of potential interest currently on the website include:

1. Tuber moth regional trapping information.
2. Beet leafhopper regional trapping information.
3. Funded research projects and scientist contact information.
4. Potato Conference proceedings articles 1970-2005.
5. All past issues of *Potato Progress*.
6. Pest identification cards.
7. Pesticide resistance management brochures.
8. PNW insect and mite management recommendations.

If you visit the website and have any suggestions or problems, please contact Andy Jensen at the office.