

Pest Alert September 7, 2017

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True Armyworm (*Pseudaletia unipuncta* or *Mythimna unipuncta*) second generation larvae have been observed severely damaging grass hay and forage corn in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island.

General Locations confirmed with heavy larvae feeding and damage to grass hay and corn:

- Vancouver Island locations seeing damage on grass fields: Saanich, Duncan, Chemainus, Port Alberni, Comox, Courtenay, Black Creek
- Fraser Valley locations seeing damage on grass fields and forage corn: Delta, Abbotsford, Sumas, Chilliwack, Deroche



Scout your fields for larvae activity. If you can easily find larvae, the damage threshold has been reached, and management options should be considered. Significant foliage loss can occur in a few days, either in spots, edges, or throughout a whole field. Moist, lush areas are preferred, i.e. low areas, shady, and greener areas. Larvae will move to new feeding sites en masse once an area is consumed. They can be seen on roads and in yards, searching for new feeding areas. Significant damage can happen quickly, within a few days.

Feeding mostly occurs from sunset through until mid-morning when temperatures warm up. During the warmer mid-day times, the larvae take refuge under plant bases, foliage on the ground, under plant crowns, and even under dirt clods and stones.

The larvae go through 6 instars (stages), and the last 3 stages are when they feed the most and do the most damage. Currently, there are a range of sizes being observed, from 0.5 to 1 inch in size (1-3 cm). Larvae will continue to feed and cause damage for at least another couple of weeks.

True armyworm larvae feeding on tassel on ground	Management options include (not necessarily in this order!):
	<p>Harvest: get the crop off before the larvae devour it.</p> <p>Cultivate: and then wait 10-14 days before planting a new fall crop to ensure larvae have either starved or moved on.</p> <p>Spray: there are insecticides registered for grass hay and corn. Decision to treat will depend on the field, plan for the crop and how many larvae there are in the field (if you find larvae and damage you are already over the action threshold!). One to two applications may be needed; check the field 2 days after the first spray and then scout regularly to determine if a second spray is needed. Suitable rates are on the labels for armyworm, use the higher rates of the rate range if possible.</p>

Some Insecticides registered (there are others) for control of armyworm in forage, grass, corn, (search done July 20, 2017), retrieved from Labels searched on PMRA Label Search site: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>

PCP #	Product name	Active ingredient	Crops	Pre-harvest or grazing interval	# applications per year
28982	Coragen	Chlorantraniliprole, Group 28	CORN (FIELD, POP, SWEET, AND SEED), GRASS FORAGE, FODDER, AND HAY GROUP, NON-GRASS ANIMAL FEEDS GROUP, OILSEEDS GROUP AND CEREALS	Forage grasses: 0 days PHI Forage corn: 14 day PHI	Up to 4 apps, 7 days apart, Use high rate
5821	Malathion	Malathion, Group 1	Cereals, grasses, legumes, alfalfa, clover for hay	7 days	1 app
27876	Sevin	Carbaryl, Group 1A	Forage, pasture, cereals	1 day	Up to 2 apps, 8 days apart
24984, 26837	Matador, Warrior	Lambda-cyhalothrin, Group 3	cereals, corn	Corn for silage: 14 days Cereals: 28 days Sweet corn: 1 day	Up to 3 apps, 4-7 days apart
28778	Delegate	Spinatoram, group 5	Cereals, field/forage corn	Cereals: 21 day PHI, Forage corn: 7 day PHI	Up to 3 apps, 5 days apart