

News Article to:

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By: Spencer Perkins, Camp County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources

Don't Count Out The Armyworms Yet!

With this past week's timely rains and cooler weather, I would be on the lookout for fall armyworms. The fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is a common pest of bermudagrass, sorghum, corn, wheat and rye grass and many other crops in north and central Texas. It is one of the most problematic and common pests of pastures and hayfields in Camp County.

Larvae of fall armyworms are green, brown or black with white to yellowish lines running from head to tail. A distinct white line between the eyes forms an inverted "Y" pattern on the face. Four black spots aligned in a square on the top of the segment near the back end of the caterpillar are also characteristic of the fall armyworm.

Armyworms are very small (1/8 inch) at first, cause little plant damage, and as a result, infestations often go unnoticed. Larvae feed for 2-3 weeks and full grown larvae are about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. As their name eludes, they can march across your field within days and wipe out forage before you realize they are present.

Look for fall armyworm larvae feeding in the crop canopy during the late evening and early morning, and during cool, cloudy weather. During hot days, look for armyworms low in the canopy or even on the soil surface where they hide under loose soil and fallen leaves.

A sweep net is very effective for sampling hay fields for fall armyworms. When fields are wet with dew, armyworms can stick on rubber boots worn while walking through the field. Also, small larvae chew the green layer from the leaves and leave a clearing or "window pane" effect and later notch the edges of leaves. At times, you might drive by a field that has just been hit with armyworms and see a white sheen across the green field.

When trying to decide if it is worth your time and money to control armyworms, there are several factors to look at.

It is important to note that in the last 2-3 days of feeding, an armyworm consumes 80 percent of its total forage intake for development. With that being noted, it is very important to notice the armyworm when in the beginning stages of development and act quickly to control it. For example: If you broke your field into a grid of one foot squares, there is a threshold of 2-3 armyworms. Once your field reaches or exceeds the threshold, it is best to apply insecticides early in the morning or late in the evening when the larvae are most active and therefore more likely to come into contact with the spray. If your field is near harvest, your best option may be to go ahead and harvest the field to prevent further damage.

Insecticides Labeled for Armyworm Control in Pastures and Hayfields

Always read and follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions. Information below is provided for educational purposes only. Read current label before use.

Karate Z. 13.1% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage, and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

Lambda-Cy. 11.4% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage, and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

Mustang Max. 9.6% zeta-cypermethrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Applications may be made up to 0 days for forage and hay, 7 days for straw and seed screenings. Restricted use insecticide.

Tombstone Helios. 25% cyfluthrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture, rangeland, grass grown for hay and seed. Zero days to grazing or harvesting hay. Restricted use insecticide.

Warrior II. 22.8% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage, and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted-use insecticide.

Baythroid XL. 12.07% cyfluthrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture, rangeland, grass grown for hay and seed. Zero days to grazing or harvesting hay. Restricted-use insecticide.

Dimilin 2L. 22% diflubenzuron. Fall armyworms and immature grasshoppers. Dimilin must be applied before armyworm larvae reach ½ inch or larger. Provides residual control for up to 2-3 weeks, as long as forage is not removed from the field. Label does not list a restriction on grazing.

Prevathon. 5% chlorantraniliprole. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Prevathon has a 0 day waiting period for harvest or grazing and is not a restricted-use insecticide.

Besiege. 9.26% chlorantraniliprole and 4.63% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted-use insecticide.

Sevin 4F, Sevin XLR, Sevin 80S, Generic Carbaryl. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. When applied to pastures, there is a 14-day waiting period before grazing or harvesting.

Malathion 57% and Malathion ULV. Fall armyworms and grasshoppers. Zero days to harvest or grazing.

Intrepid 2F. Fall armyworms (not grasshoppers). Begin applications when first signs of armyworm feedings appear. Use higher rates for heavier infestations. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application. No pre-harvest interval for forage. 0 days to grazing.

Tracer. Treat when armyworm eggs hatch or when larvae are small. Use higher rates for larger larvae. Do not graze until spray is dry. Do not harvest hay or fodder for 3 days after treatment. Do not allow cattle to graze until spray has dried.

As always, if you have any other questions or concerns, please give me a call at the Extension Office (903)856-5005, or visit our website at <http://camp.agrilife.org/>. Lastly, I would like to inform you of a food manager certification being held in Mount Pleasant:

FOOD MANAGER CERTIFICATION

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering a Certified Food Manager Course in Titus County on September 22-23, 2015 at the Titus County Extension Office.

This exciting hands-on food safety course will equip you with the latest food safety principles and practices and will help prepare you for the National Certified Food Manager Examination. The cost of \$125.00 includes the course, certification examination, course book and all course materials.

For more information or to register, please call Lou Ann Rollins, Titus County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences at 903-572-5201.

Note:

The Extension Office will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for all meetings. Persons with disabilities planning to attend should contact the Extension Office at least one week in advance of the event to advise them of the auxiliary aid or services required.