

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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Oklahoma Agweather Richard Grantham, Dir - PDIDL



FREE! When was the last time you heard that? The Oklahoma Mesonet (<http://www.mesonet.ou.edu/>) weather-related products for agriculture and natural resources management are now available no charge on the Agweather site (<http://agweather.mesonet.org/>). The products on these pages are designed to aid agriculturists in their decision-making process. Data from the Oklahoma Mesonet are employed to create county-specific information.

You may select from current/recent weather maps, agricultural and natural resource models, weather forecasts, and related links. In addition, scientists from Oklahoma State University have "tuned" the models for conditions specific to Oklahoma agriculture. Growers and producers can access site specific seasonal and recent output for the following models: Alfalfa Weevil, Pecan Scab, Pecan Nut Casebearer, and Watermelon Anthracnose.

Alfalfa weevil egg populations in 2003 Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist and Kelly Seuhs, Extension Assistant



On January 6-7, 2003, alfalfa samples were taken at 11 sites across the state to ascertain egg populations of alfalfa weevils. In light of the type of winter we have experienced thus far, we may continue to see numbers remain pretty steady. Numbers presented in the attached table reflect weevil eggs per square foot. These numbers may not indicate the severity of the upcoming alfalfa weevil larval infestation, since most of the egg-laying by adult weevils typically occurs during the warm periods of January and February. Early numbers obtained during this first sampling date indicate the amount of oviposition that has taken place so far, including that from October and November of last year. If you recall conditions during this time, most of the state saw a cool, wet fall. These conditions are not conducive to mating and oviposition by adult alfalfa weevils and it appears that the majority of the populations are still in winter diapause. The viability of these eggs will not be known for approximately one week. Egg populations and viabilities will be assessed again in February after the typical oviposition period but before hatch (150 degree days). Presently, most of the locations in the attached table have degree day totals below 30 (thru 01-09-03). Remember the magic

number for egg hatch is 150 degree days and it appears we are store for some additional winter weather with relatively low egg populations in most locations. Alfalfa weevil larval populations were high initially in 2002 but dropped dramatically after several days of freezing temperatures in late February. This resulted in some egg mortality and definitely larval mortality. In comparison, populations were relatively light and very late in 2001, if cold weather conditions take over then we could experience a similar pattern.

No army cutworms were seen during our sampling for weevil eggs, but these could become more common in February. We'll keep you posted on what we're finding around the state as information becomes available.

| County | January 6-7 2003 | January 2002 | January 2001 | January 2000 | January 1999 | DD through 1-9-2003 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grady | 110.0 | 396.8 | 58.8 | 184.0 | 101.0 | 24 |
| Kay | 96.8 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 17 |
| Kingfisher | 48.0 | 190.0 | 8.4 | 122.4 | --- | 22 |
| Osage | 57.2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 23 |
| Payne | 366.8 | 57.4 | 37.6 | 241.0 | --- | 25 |
| Pittsburg | 389.8 | 802.8 | --- | --- | --- | 32 |
| Pottawatomie | 48.8 | 170.0 | 21.6 | --- | --- | 26 |
| Stephens | 62.4 | 1487.2 | 80.8 | 32.0 | 194.8 | 29 |
| Tillman | 65.2 | 95.2 | 95.6 | 174.0 | --- | 33 |
| Washita | 79.2 | 139.2 | 26.4 | 188.0 | 178.8 | 24 |
| Woods | 56.4 | 65.2 | 74.8 | 37.2 | 141.2 | 29 |
| *Mean | 125.4 | 348.0 | 45.6 | 114.5 | 155.7 | --- |

*Means derived from all areas sampled, each year, not simply those depicted in table.

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