

# PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



Department Entomology and Plant Pathology  
Oklahoma State University  
127 Noble Research Center  
Stillwater, OK 74078



Vol. 2, No. 2

Website: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/advisory.htm>

Jan 22, 2003

## Update on Alfalfa weevil populations for 2003

Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist and Kelly Seuhs, Extension Assistant



Alfalfa weevil egg populations and viabilities for the last three years are located in the table below. In addition, the degree days through January 20, 2003 are presented in the last column. Hopefully, the egg numbers presented in our last email did not surprise anyone and numbers will remain low, but that remains to be seen. We don't believe we have reached our peak and/or optimum time for egg laying, but we will sample again in February to assess the progress of the population for 2003. We are still slightly behind on degree days with these cold temperatures, and have not reached the hatching period in any location. Viability of the eggs counted so far reflect above average percentages; however, on average the

populations are relatively low in comparison to this time last year. Remember, the magic number for hatching is 150 degree days. We will attempt to sample eggs again in February, if weather and time permit. Hopefully, we'll experience some more winter between now and then and reduce populations or least keep them from increasing too rapidly. We'll continue to keep you posted on what we're finding around the state.



Table 1. Alfalfa weevil egg populations and viabilities for the last three years across Oklahoma. The last column depicts the current degree days for 2003 in each of the counties sampled (Through January 20, 2003).

COUNTY	2003	% Viable	2002	% Viable	2001	% Viable	Degree days (2003)
Grady	110.0	91.1	396.8	67	58.8	90	32
Kay	96.8	76.3	----	----	----	----	28
Kingfisher	48.0	----	190.0	90	8.4	91.7	33
Osage	57.2	----	----	----	----	----	34

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% Viable</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>% Viable</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>% Viable</b>	<b>Degree days (2003)</b>
Payne	366.8	77.6	57.4	79.6	37.6	77.9	39
Pittsburg	389.8	73.9	802.8	87	----	----	47
Pottawatomie	48.8	----	170.0	64	21.6	----	38
Stephens	62.4	84.3	1487.2	93	80.8	----	43
Tillman	65.2	----	95.2	88	95.6	96.3	50
Washita	79.2	86.4	139.2	89	26.4	94.7	33
Woods	56.4	----	65.2	53	74.8	----	46
Means	125.4	81.6	348.0	79.8	45.6	90.6	38.4

\*Means derived from all areas sampled, each year, not simply those depicted. If no viability is provided for a specific county in any given year, then numbers of eggs recovered were insufficient to conduct an assessment.

---

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title IV and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order of 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Samuel E. Curl, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.