

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

COUNTY	2003	% Viable	2002	% Viable	2001	% Viable	Degree days (2003)
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.

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