

# PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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Vol. 2, No. 4

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

Mar 7, 2003

## February Alfalfa Weevil Egg Viabilities 2003

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Alfalfa weevil egg populations and viabilities for both January and February are located in the attached table. In addition, the degree days through March 5, 2003 are presented in the last column. On February 19 and 20, 2003 we sampled the same sites across the state for alfalfa weevil eggs and found that numbers had decreased from the January counts in six of the 11 counties sampled. In addition, egg viability readings remained quite steady at around 80% on average. Degree days suggest that we are at or near hatch in seven of the eleven locations. This weekend's weather will change that dramatically, with a forecast of warm temperatures. Continue to be on the watch for aphids, particularly cowpea aphids. Populations of cowpea aphids, have been quite alarming, with numbers approaching several hundred per stem in Grady County. These high populations have also been noted in Garvin County. The recent snows, rain and colder temperatures hopefully decreased these populations somewhat.

Remember, as far as alfalfa weevil populations are concerned, 150 degree days represents the level that serves as an indicator for growers and consultants to begin scouting for larvae which have already been seen in some of these southern locations. Most of these young larvae are too small and the numbers are too light to justify treatment; however, weekly scouting will help growers anticipate the best treatment timing.



Table 1. Alfalfa weevil egg populations and viabilities for 2003 across Oklahoma. The last column depicts current degree days for 2003 in each of the counties sampled (Through March 5, 2003)

COUNTY	January 2003	January % Viable	February 2003	February % Viable	Degree days (2003)
Grady	110.0	91.1	40.4	----	151
Kay	96.8	76.3	78.8	92	99
Kingfisher	48.0	----	65.2	83	127
Osage	57.2	----	99.2	78	121

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>January 2003</b>	<b>January % Viable</b>	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>February % Viable</b>	<b>Degree days (2003)</b>
Payne	366.8	77.6	435.2	83	143
Pittsburg	389.8	73.9	144.0	79	157
Pottawatomie	48.8	----	18.8	----	151
Stephens	62.4	84.3	112.0	82	193
Tillman	65.2	----	4.0	----	213
Washita	79.2	86.4	16.4	----	149
Woods	56.4	----	114.0	68	125
Means	125.4	81.6	102.5	80.7	148.1

\* If no viability in a specific county means that numbers of eggs recovered were insufficient to conduct an assessment.

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