

# PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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## March Alfalfa Weevil Egg Populations 2004

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Normally, we take egg population estimates in January and February of each year. This year with the delay in warm weather throughout the month of February we delayed our second sampling period into March. Alfalfa weevil egg populations for March are located in the attached table. Most of you have seen these numbers already; however, the attached table also contains the viabilities that were recovered from those eggs and the latest degree day totals through March 21, 2004 in the last column. January egg populations and viabilities are also depicted in the table. Egg populations were somewhat lower in all but two

counties compared to January numbers. These lower numbers may be attributed to cool and wet conditions on the sample dates, especially in Southwest Oklahoma.

Remember, as far as alfalfa weevil populations are concerned, 150 degree days represent the level that serves as an indicator for growers and consultants to begin scouting for larvae, therefore, scouting should be in full swing throughout the state. Small larvae were identified in January through some of the samples, but were too small and numbers too light to justify concern. With the increase in temperature, degree days will start to accumulate faster and increased scouting will be needed. Treatment has begun in earnest throughout most of Oklahoma with some of the northern locations slightly behind the rest of the state.



Table 1. Alfalfa weevil egg populations and viabilities for 2004, across Oklahoma. The last column depicts degree days for 2004 in each of the counties sampled (Through March 21, 2004).

County	Mar 2004 Egg Pop (No./ft. <sup>2</sup> )	Mar 2004 % Viable	Jan 2004 Egg Pop (No./ft. <sup>2</sup> )	Jan 2004 % Viable	Degree Days 2004 Thru 3-21
Grady	107.6	66	206.0	34	339
Kay	53.6	*	94.8	49	234
Kingfisher	39.2	*	207.2	75	284
Payne	60.4	*	241.2	79	322
Pottawatomie	135.2	83	118.4	79	335

<b>County</b>	<b>Mar 2004 Egg Pop (No./ft.<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Mar 2004 % Viable</b>	<b>Jan 2004 Egg Pop (No./ft.<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Jan 2004 % Viable</b>	<b>Degree Days 2004 Thru 3-21</b>
Tillman	16.0	*	26.8	*	404
Washita	137.2	72	486.0	69	310
Woods	198.0	62	496.0	72	258
Garvin	73.6	78	38.0	*	388
Tulsa	106.8	80	115.2	90	280
** Mean	92.7	44.1	202.9	54.7	315.7

\* No viability in a specific county means that egg numbers recovered was insufficient to conduct an assessment.

\*\* Means represent all areas sampled, each year, not simply those depicted.

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