

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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January Alfalfa Weevil Egg Populations Down, Viability High in 2005 Report # 2

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As reported last week, alfalfa weevil egg populations for January were relatively light in comparison to previous years; however, the viability of those eggs is still rather good, averaging nearly 88% across the eight sample areas where populations were great enough to gather this information. In addition, degree days through January 23, 2005 are presented in the last column. For the purposes of comparison, January egg populations and viability of those eggs for the previous two years are



Alfalfa Weevil(*Hypera postica* (Gyllenhal))
Photo By: Kansas Department of Agriculture 9/1/2004 ImageID: 22135
Kansas State University
Great Plains Diagnostic Network
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also depicted in the table. Relatively low numbers of eggs does not necessarily translate into a light population once treatments begin. In 2005, degree days through January 18 averaged 43.8 across the ten sample sites. By January 23, we are averaging nearly 70 degree days with some warm areas of the state approaching 100 degree days.

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. Any early emerging larvae that begin activity before the hard freezes are complete will likely die. Relatively few larvae were evident this year in early samples. During warm spells in January and February adult mating and oviposition can increase dramatically. Sampling for alfalfa weevil eggs in February will be based on our approach to the 150 degree day barrier, when hatch begins.

We will keep you posted in later releases about samples taken in February. Currently, the outlook for this coming season is promising with rain on the horizon.

County	January 2005	January 2005 % Viable*	January 2004	January 2004 % Viable*	January 2003	January 2003 % Viable*	Degree Days (2005)
Grady	43.6	---	206	34	110	91.1	74
Kay	124	84	94.8	49	96.8	76.3	37
Kingfisher	162	94	207.2	75	48	---	52
Payne	338.8	90	241.2	79	366.8	77.6	65
Pottawatomie	218	82	118.4	79	48.8	---	93
Tillman	54	---	26.8	---	65.2	---	84
Washita	57.2	93	486	69	79.2	86.4	61
Woods	88	85	496	72	56.4	---	38
Garvin	113.2	87	38	---	---	---	99
Tulsa	105.6	86	115.2	90	---	---	64

** Mean 130.4 88 203 54.7 125.4 81.6 66.7

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

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

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