

## Wheat Entomology Newsletter May 16, 2022

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### Wheat Stem Sawfly

Sawfly adults began to emerge in Weld and Morgan counties. Adult sawflies can only lay their eggs in wheat plants with a stem, which would be around Zadoks 32. However, if there are not enough hosts, they may lay multiple eggs per stem or find non-cultivated wheat grasses to lay their eggs.



Figure 1. Newly emerged wheat stem sawfly female on wheat. Picture by Adam Osterholzer.

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### Cutworms

Cutworm channels were observed at many northern locations. The adult form of the army cutworm, also known as the miller moth in Colorado, has been observed in Julesburg and Arriba fields.



Figure 2: Army cutworm moth.  
Picture by J. Capinera.

More information on miller moths can be found at:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/miller-moths-5-597/>

More information on caterpillars in small grains can be found at:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/caterpillars-in-small-grains-5-577/>. Pyrethroid insecticides are effective against both army cutworm and pale western cutworm ([https://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIP:Small\\_Grains\\_Army\\_Cutworm](https://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIP:Small_Grains_Army_Cutworm)).

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### **Brown Wheat Mites**

Multiple reports of heavy brown wheat mite populations north of I-70. Sites near Arriba, Lamar, and Julesburg are also experiencing heavy mite infestations.

The economic threshold for this pest is not well defined, but spraying with insecticide is the only option during an outbreak. Previous research has shown that dimethoate insecticides are the most effective of currently registered products.

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### **Russian Wheat Aphids**

Russian wheat aphid populations are no longer detectable in fields around Arriba and Julesburg.

Scout your fields regularly for the white or purple chlorotic streaking that the aphids cause. More information on Russian wheat aphids can be found at <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/aphids-in-small-grains-5-568/>.

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### **Wheat Diseases**

For wheat disease updates by Dr. Robyn Roberts, please see:

<https://coloradowheat.org/category/news-events/wheat-pest-and-disease-update/>

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### **Acknowledgments**

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