

Wheat Entomology Newsletter May 31, 2022

Dr. Erika Peirce: Erika.Peirce@colostate.edu,
661-607-1789

Dr. Punya Nachappa: Punya.Nachappa@colostate.edu,
785-383-4873



Wheat Stem Sawfly

We are seeing high wheat stem sawfly pressure in our field sites at New Raymer. Here are some pictures of sawfly attack in New Raymer. Dr. Mason and Sally Diamond-Jones also report high pressure in Akron. Ron Meyer said that crop scouts are reporting heavy sawfly pressure in the Yuma County – Kit Carson County border north of Stratton and near Vernon. Some fields have 20 WSS per foot of row!



Figure 1. Heavy sawfly pressure in New Raymer. Pictures by PhD student, Henrique Vieira.

According to historical data we have not reached peak flight yet which is expected first or second week of June.

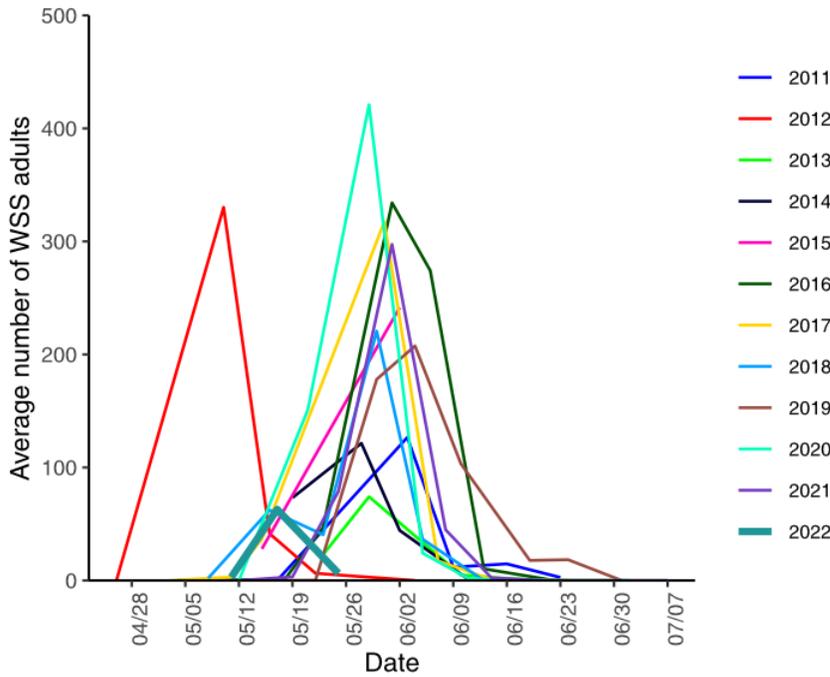


Figure 2. Graph showing historical WSS flight numbers in New Raymer and Orchard, CO. The thick teal line is 2022 data.

Russian Wheat Aphids

Wet and cool conditions have decreased Russian wheat aphid populations across the state, but there is high infestation at ARDEC experiment station in Fort Collins.

Nachappa lab undergraduate students, Max Schmidtbauer and Paetra Vroman-Lucas helped Dr. Paul Ode, Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology release Russian wheat aphid parasitoids, a small, stingless wasp called *Aphelinus hordei* that can be used to reduce the severity of damage caused by Russian wheat aphids. If the populations of the wasps establish at ARDEC then we may be able to distribute wasps to growers.



Figure 3. Russian wheat aphid-parasitoid experiment. Pictures by Max Schmidtbauer

Brown Wheat Mites

The brown wheat mite populations have also decreased owing to the moisture we received in the last couple of weeks.

Wheat Diseases

Wheat curl mites are a growing concern in Northeastern Colorado. Todd Ballard reports samples sent to Dr. Robyn Roberts that tested positive for WSMV and TriMV.

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

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

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the tireless work of the CSU researchers and extension agents for reporting pest problems throughout the state, including Ron Meyer, Todd Ballard, Sally Jones-Diamond, Barry Ogg, Kevin Larson, Brett Pettinger, Dennis Kaan, Mel Schreiner, and Michaela Mattes. As well Dr. Frank Peairs for continuing to provide insight on pest problems during his retirement.