

INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALFALFA, CLOVER, AND PASTURES – 2018

Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist

This publication contains only a portion of the information included on pesticide labels. Always read the product label carefully before buying and using any pesticide. Many insecticides are sold under brand names that are not listed in this publication. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not listed.

Products are arranged by IRAC mode of action groups and listed by common name with some example brand names. Products listed in **bold** are **Restricted Use** insecticides. *Products listed in italics are approved for organic production.*

Insecticides have been placed into numbered Insecticide Mode of Action groups (MOA) based on how they work against insects. Continual use of products from a single group against a pest species can lead to reduced control (resistance) by all products in the group. To minimize control failures due to insecticide resistance, do not apply insecticides within the same group repeatedly. Rotate among groups during the growing season.

Alfalfa weevil control

The best alfalfa weevil management decisions are based on stem sampling. If this information is not available, then control is recommended when 25% to 50% of the tips are being fed upon and 2 or more larvae can be found per stem. * See additional threshold table at the end of this publication.

Alfalfa Weevil Insecticides	MOA	Harvest or Graze – days Interval/ REI*
Carbaryl - Sevin 80 S, etc. Sevin 4F, etc.	1A	May temporarily bleach tender foliage. 7 / (12 hrs)
Methomyl - Lannate SP	1A	7 / (48 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos - Lorsban 4E, Chlorpyrifos 4E	1B	Some temporary yellowing may occur. 1 pt - 14 d / (24); more than 1 pt - 21d
Phosmet - Imidan 70 W	1B	7 / (5 days)
b-Cyfluthrin - Baythroid XL	3	7 / (12 hrs)
g-Cyhalothrin - Bolton, Declare, Proaxis 0.5 EC	3	Apply only to planted pure stands. 1 day forage, 7 day harvest (24 hrs)
l-Cyhalothrin - Warrior II	3	1 d - forage, 7d – hay / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin - Mustang Maxx	3	3 / (12 hrs)
Permethrin - Ambush, Pounce 25 WP, etc.	3	Do not apply to intentionally mixed stands of forage grasses or legumes (>4 fl oz/ a - 14 d) / (12 hrs)
<i>Pyrethrins - PyGanic</i>	3	0 / (12 hrs)
Idoxcarb - Steward 1.25 SC	22	7 / (12 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos + l-Cyhalothrin - Cobalt EC	1B+3	7 / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin + Chlorpyrifos - Stallion	1B+3	7 / (24 hrs)
l-Cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole - Besiege	3+28	1-forage, 7-hay / (24 hrs)

* Restricted Entry Interval (hours)

Evaluating post-harvest alfalfa weevil larval and adult damage

Routine stubble sprays are not justified. If early harvest was used as a weevil management tool, there occasionally may be sufficient larvae or newly-emerged adults present to justify an insecticide application. Watch such fields carefully for the normal green-up that indicates active re-growth. Surviving larvae may feed on developing leaves and new adults can cause "notch-like" feeding holes on leaves giving them a feathery appearance. Use the table below to evaluate larval numbers and plant height to determine if control is needed. Treatment may be justified if adult weevil are feeding on 50% or more of the crowns or re-growth is prevented for 3 to 6 days. Use low rates if an insecticide application is necessary.

Assessing alfalfa weevil larvae on first cutting re-growth (5 to 7 days after harvest)

# larvae/30 stems*	20	33	47	60
# larvae/30 stems **	17-20	17-32	23-46	23-59
Plant height	2"	4"	6"	8" or taller

*Spray with a short residual insecticide if the number of larvae/30 stems exceeds the number in the table above for the appropriate alfalfa height. **Sample again in 2 days if the number of larvae/30 stems is in this range for the appropriate alfalfa height. If numbers are below this level, no treatment should be necessary.

Potato leafhoppers

When to sample: Sample each field once a week. Established alfalfa fields should be first sampled the week following the end of alfalfa weevil season. Sample new seedings beginning in mid-May. Damaging leafhopper populations may build up in spring seedings if alfalfa is not cut until late June or early July. Sample fields anytime during the day when the foliage is not wet. Sweeping alfalfa when it is wet from dew or rain is difficult and the samples are almost impossible to count. **Equipment needed:** * Yardstick or other measuring device. * 15" sweep net. * Pencil and paper. * Potato Leafhopper Treatment Guideline Table.

How to sample: 1. Take 20 sweeps at 5 locations in the field (100 sweeps per field). 2. Count all potato leafhoppers (adults and nymphs) collected at each location and record these numbers. 3. Randomly collect 10 complete stems as you leave the field. Compute the average stem height, and count the number of stems with buds or flowers. 4. Compute the number of leafhoppers per sweep and use the "Potato Leafhopper Economic Threshold Table" to determine if control measures are needed.

Determining the need for leafhopper control: Sample the field within 7 days after cutting to determine whether or not control measures are needed. After the first cutting, and for every additional cutting, use the Treatment Guideline Table below to determine when potato leafhoppers should be controlled. If your leafhopper counts exceed the critical values on the table, control measures should be implemented. Early harvests often can control potato leafhoppers. However, insecticides may be needed especially if the alfalfa is small, usually early in the regrowth period.

Potato leafhopper treatment guidelines

Average stem length	# Leafhoppers/Sweep	# Leafhoppers/100 Sweeps
Less than 3"	0.2	20
3" to 6"	0.5	50
8" to 10"	1.0	100
12" to 14"	2.0	200

If the alfalfa is at 30% bud or more you should plan on cutting within 7-10 days. In this case there is no need to spray. However, soon after cutting you should resample the field to determine the need for control. Harvesting will kill a high percentage of potato leafhopper nymphs and some adults. Most surviving adults will leave the field so stubble sprays are unnecessary. The adults will return when the regrowth is about 4" to 6" tall. Sweep samples, beginning 5 to 7 days after harvest, will determine if a treatment is necessary.

Potato Leafhopper Insecticides	MOA	Harvest or Graze – days Interval/ REI*
Carbaryl - Sevin 80 S, etc. Sevin 4F, etc.	1A	May temporarily bleach tender foliage. 7 / (12 hrs)
Methomyl - Lannate SP	1A	7 / (48 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos - Lorsban 4E, Chlorpyrifos 4E	1B	Some temporary yellowing may occur. 1 pt - 14 d/ (24); more than 1 pt - 21d
Dimethoate - Dimethoate 400, Dimethoate 2.67, Dimate 4 EC,	1B	10 / (2 days)

Phosmet - Imidan 70 W	1B	7 / (5 days)
b-Cyfluthrin - Baythroid XL	3	7 / (12 hrs)
g-Cyhalothrin - Bolton, Declare, Proaxis 0.5 EC	3	Apply only to planted pure stands. 1 day forage, 7 day harvest (24 hrs)
l-Cyhalothrin - Warrior II	3	1 d - forage, 7d – hay / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin - Mustang Maxx	3	3 / (12 hrs)
Permethrin - Ambush, Pounce 25 WP, etc.	3	Do not apply to intentionally mixed stands of forage grasses or legumes (more than 4 fl oz/ a - 14 d) / (12 hrs)
<i>Pyrethrins - PyGanic</i>	3	0 / (12 hrs)
Idoxicarb - Steward 1.25 SC	22	7 / (12 hrs)
<i>Azadirachtin (26) - Aza-Direct, etc.</i>	26	0 days (4 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos + l-cyhalothrin - Cobalt EC	1B+3	7 / (24 hrs)
z-cypermethrin + chlorpyrifos - Stallion	1B+3	7/ (24 hrs)
l-Cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole - Besiege	3+28	1-forage, 7-hay / (24 hrs)

Other alfalfa and clover pests

Aphids- An average of 50 or more green pea aphids per stem would be needed to justify control. Treat only if plants lose their dark green color and are wilting. Products such as *Aza-Direct*, **Baythroid XL**, **Besiege**, **Cobalt EC**, Cythion, Dimethoate, Imidan, **Lannate**, **Lorsban**, Malathion, *M-Pede*, **Mustang Maxxxx**, **Pounce**, **Proaxis**, **Stallion**, or **Warrior II** may be used.

Blister Beetles are long cylindrical beetles that may be black, gray, yellow and brown striped or black with gray margins on the wing covers. These insects usually appear in mid-July and are usually found feeding in clusters on plant flowers. Livestock that eat hay containing dead beetles can become sick and may die. If small numbers are found, they can be kept out of the harvested hay by avoiding the use of a hay "crimper" when cutting the crop. If the beetles are not crushed during the harvesting process, they will leave the field before the hay is baled. Blister beetles can be controlled using applications of carbaryl sprays sold in products such as *Aza-Direct*, **Besiege**, **Cobalt EC**, **Proaxis**, Sevin 4F, 80S, Sevin XLR, or **Warrior II**. See the label for the rate to use. Do not apply Sevin or **Warrior II** within 7 days of harvest.

Cloverleaf weevil larvae are usually controlled by a fungus each spring and insecticide treatments are seldom justified. Fungus infected larvae are yellow-brown and often are found stuck to leaves at the top of the plant. Healthy cloverleaf weevil larvae are always found on the ground at the base of the plant during the daylight hours.

Grasshoppers

Treat after cutting when plants are less than six inches tall if more than 15 grasshoppers per square yard are found in the field. Treat if there are 40 or more grasshopper nymphs or adults per square yard in the field margins or field.

Grasshopper Insecticides	MOA	Harvest or Graze – days Interval/ REI*
Carbaryl - Sevin 80 S, etc. Sevin 4F, etc.	1A	May temporarily bleach tender foliage. 7 / (12 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos - Lorsban 4E, Chlorpyrifos 4E	1B	Some temporary yellowing may occur. 1 pt - 14 d/ (24); more than 1 pt - 21d
Dimethoate - Dimethoate 400, Dimethoate 2.67, Dimate 4 EC,	1B	10 / (2 days)
Phosmet - Imidan 70 W	1B	7 / (5 days)

b-Cyfluthrin - Baythroid XL	3	7 / (12 hrs)
g-Cyhalothrin - Bolton, Declare, Proaxis 0.5 EC	3	Apply only to planted pure stands. 1 day forage, 7 day harvest (24 hrs)
I-Cyhalothrin - Warrior II	3	1 d - forage, 7d – hay / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin - Mustang Maxx	3	3 / (12 hrs)
Permethrin - Ambush, Pounce 25 WP, etc.	3	Do not apply to intentionally mixed stands of forage grasses or legumes (more than 4 fl oz/ a - 14 d) / (12 hrs)
<i>Pyrethrins - PyGanic</i>	3	0 / (12 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos + I-Cyhalothrin - Cobalt EC	1B+3	7 / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin + Chlorpyrifos - Stallion	1B+3	7/ (24 hrs)
I-Cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole - Besiege	3+28	1-forage, 7-hay / (24 hrs)

Meadow spittlebugs- A treatment is seldom, if ever, needed. If spittle masses and nymphs average more than 1 per stem and alfalfa is less than 6" tall, then an insecticide application of products such as **Baythroid XL, Besiege, Lorsban, methoxychlor, Mustang Maxx, Pounce, Stallion or Warrior II** may be used. Control may be poor due to the protection of the insect by the spittle mass.

Insect pests of fall seeded alfalfa

A preplant incorporated application of **Lorsban 4E**, at the rate of 1 qt per acre, can be used to reduce numbers of cutworms, wireworms, and white grubs.

Several insects can feed on new seedlings in fall-seeded stands. Generally, they are not pests in established fields but can eat or kill small seedlings. Watch new closely and examine scattered areas of the field to check for bare spots that may be due to insect feeding. Use the insecticides listed in this table to control these pests.

Beetles, Fall armyworms in Fall-seeded Stands	MOA	Harvest or Graze – days Interval/ REI*
Carbaryl - Sevin 80 S, etc. Sevin 4F, etc.	1A	May temporarily bleach tender foliage. 7 / (12 hrs)
b-Cyfluthrin - Baythroid XL	3	7 / (12 hrs)
g-Cyhalothrin - Bolton, Declare, Proaxis 0.5 EC	3	Apply only to planted pure stands. 1 day forage, 7 day harvest (24 hrs)
I-Cyhalothrin - Warrior II	3	1 d - forage, 7d – hay / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin - Mustang Maxx	3	3 / (12 hrs)
Permethrin - Ambush, Pounce 25 WP, etc.	3	Do not apply to intentionally mixed stands of forage grasses or legumes (more than 4 fl oz/ a - 14 d) / (12 hrs)
<i>Pyrethrins - PyGanic</i>	3	0 / (12 hrs)
Chlorpyrifos + I-Cyhalothrin - Cobalt EC	1B+3	7 / (24 hrs)
z-Cypermethrin + Chlorpyrifos - Stallion	1B+3	7/ (24 hrs)
I-Cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole - Besiege	3+28	1-forage, 7-hay / (24 hrs)

Grasshopper and armyworm control for pastures and hay fields

Insecticides	MOA	Harvest or Graze – days Interval/ REI*
Carbaryl - Sevin 80 S, etc. Sevin 4F, etc.	1A	May temporarily bleach tender foliage. 7 / (12 hrs) Armyworms
Malathion – Malathion %EC, Cythion 5EC	1B	Grasshoppers
b-Cyfluthrin - Baythroid XL	3	7 / (12 hrs)
<i>Pyrethrins - PyGanic</i>	3	0 / (12 hrs)
Bt products - Agree WG, Biobit HP, Dipel DF, Javelin	11	0 / (4 hrs)

Economic thresholds for the alfalfa weevil are determined from the size of plants, the value of the hay, the cost of insecticidal treatment, and the number of larvae per 30 stems of alfalfa (below).

Number of alfalfa weevil larvae /30 stems														
\$/ton	Plant height (inches)													
	12 to 18				18 to 24				24 to 30					
120	68	79	91	114		75	87	100	124		78	91	105	130
140	59	68	77	99		64	75	86	107		67	78	90	112
160	51	60	68	86		56	65	75	93		58	68	79	98
180	45	53	60	77		50	58	67	84		52	61	70	87
200	41	48	54	69		45	52	60	76		47	55	63	79
220	37	43	49	63		41	47	55	69		42	50	57	72
240	34	40	45	58		37	43	50	63		39	46	53	66
260	31	37	42	54		35	40	46	59		36	43	49	61
280	29	34	39	50		32	37	43	55		33	40	45	56
300	27	32	36	47		28	35	40	51		31	37	42	53
	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$20		\$12	\$14	\$16	\$20		\$12	\$14	\$16	\$20

Table 1. Economic thresholds (# of larvae) for alfalfa weevil on plants of different sizes. If the number of weevil larvae from 30 stems exceeds the number in the table above for plants of the appropriate height, the value of hay, and insecticide cost, an insecticide treatment may be justified.

(Source: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/alfalfa-weevil>)