Alfalfa Weevil and Early Season Insect Management in Alfalfa

It is that time of year again to think about scouting for alfalfa weevils and other early season insect pests in alfalfa. Alfalfa weevils are one of the primary early season insect threats in alfalfa. This article will discuss the alfalfa weevil’s life cycle and the economic thresholds at which it is recommended to apply an insecticide.

Alfalfa weevils are the primary defoliators of alfalfa. Eggs are laid in the alfalfa stems in the fall or spring by the adult female. The eggs hatch and the larvae feed on the green plant tissue generally near the plant terminal early in the spring. The life stages of the alfalfa weevil are pictured and described in a link from the University of Illinois [Click here](#). Treat the fields when approaching threshold levels to prevent yield and quality loss from this economically important pest.

**Warrior II with Zeon Technology**

Warrior II with Zeon Technology® Insecticide provides residual control of early season alfalfa pests, including alfalfa weevil. This insecticide’s long-residual and contact activity has been documented in university research trials and through proven field performance. Warrior II with Zeon Technology at 1.92 fl. oz/A will provide control of alfalfa weevil and many other early season alfalfa pests.

**Kansas State University Economic Threshold Recommendations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infestation Timing</th>
<th>Alfalfa Height</th>
<th>Treatment Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early season infestation</td>
<td>3-7 inches</td>
<td>Treat when feeding is evident on top inch of growth and one or two larvae per stem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-season infestation</td>
<td>8-14 inches</td>
<td>Treat when damage is in the top 1-2 inches of growth and 30-50% of plants are damaged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Season infestation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Treat when the majority of the plants have damage in the top 2-3 inches of growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>After harvest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stubble spray may be needed to protect re-growth. The threshold is 4-8 larvae per square foot, depending on growing conditions</td>
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</table>

*Some other important early season insect pests in Kansas alfalfa that are target pests for Warrior II with Zeon Technology include: Blue Alfalfa Aphid, Cowpea Aphid, Pea Aphid, Clover Leaf Weevil, Army Cutworm, Blister Beetles, and Grasshoppers.*

Refer to the Warrior II with Zeon Technology label for proper rate selection, and specific pest use directions for the insects listed above.

Note: Consultants often tank mix organophosphate insecticides when aphids are at economic threshold levels. See local recommendations for tank-mix rates.

Link to the Kansas State University Insecticide Alfalfa Recommendations: [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF809.pdf](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF809.pdf)


View the Warrior II with Zeon Technology® label.

If you have any additional questions please contact your local Syngenta Representative or the Syngenta Customer Center at 1-866-SYNGENT (A) (1-866-796-4368).

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Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using Syngenta products. The instructions contain important conditions of sale, including limitations of warranty and remedy. Warrior II with Zeon Technology is a Restricted Use Pesticide. Warrior II with Zeon Technology is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops and weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift onto blooming plants while bees are foraging adjacent to the treatment area. Knowledge to Grow™, Warrior II with Zeon Technology®, FarmAssist®, and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.