

Western Committee on Crop Pests Guide to Integrated Control of Insect Pests of Crops

Insect Management in Cereal Grains¹ in Western Canada

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¹Crops covered in this chapter of the guide include wheat, oats, barley, rye, field corn, buckwheat, and millet.

This document is only a guide. Always refer to the product label for application details and precautions before using an insecticide. Labels for any insecticide in this guide can be found on the website of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency at: <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>

Aphids

(Hemiptera: Aphididae)

English grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*)

Greenbug (*Schizaphis graminum*)

Oat-birdcherry aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*)

Corn leaf aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*)

Most abundant species: In western Canada the English grain aphid (*Sitobion avenae*) and the Oat-birdcherry aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*) can commonly be found on wheat, and the greenbug (*Schizaphis graminum*) occurs sporadically (1).

The corn leaf aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) may at times be present on corn or small grain cereals.

The oat-birdcherry aphid can be an important vector of barley yellow dwarf virus. English grain aphid can also vector barley yellow dwarf virus, but is not as efficient a vector as the oat-birdcherry aphid (2). Oat-birdcherry aphid prefers lower parts of the heading plant, while the English grain aphid prefers the plant head (13).

Monitoring: A sequential sampling plan developed in North Dakota for aphids in spring wheat (3) states:

- Sampling should begin greater than 30 m from the field edge,
- Randomly sample five individual stems (one set) from a 2m² area, and record the number of aphids on each stem,
- A minimum of 20 samples (4 sets) should be taken before comparing with the sequential sampling tables.

A sampling plan developed in Oklahoma recommends in addition to counting aphids per tiller to determine the proportion of tillers with mummified aphids (12).

A mobile phone app called “Cereal Aphid Manager” can be used to factor common predators and parasitoids of aphids into management decisions. In addition to counts of three species of aphids (English grain aphids, oat-birdcherry aphids, and greenbugs) counts are made of adults and larvae of seven-spotted lady beetle and thirteen-spotted lady beetle, green lacewing larvae, damsel bugs, minute pirate bugs, brown aphid mummies, and black aphid mummies. Recommendations are provided based on four thresholds (5, 10, 12, and 15 aphids per tiller) to account for an individual’s tolerance to aphids.

<https://open.canada.ca/en/app/cereal-aphid-manager-mobile-app>

Economic Thresholds:

Wheat, barley, and oats: Economic injury levels for English grain aphid on spring wheat were 10 to 15 aphids per tiller (4). After the early dough stage insecticide treatments would not be cost-effective (4).

Action thresholds of 9, 13, and 17 aphids per stem, depending on management costs and crop value, are used in the sequential sampling plan from North Dakota (3).

If greater than 10% of the tillers have mummified aphids, aphid populations are expected to remain below or would quickly be suppressed below the economic threshold (12).

Cultural control –

Planting date: Research from Iowa showed that early planted spring cereals had less damage from barley yellow dwarf than cereals planted later (5). Research in South Dakota found that barley yellow dwarf virus was less in later plantings of winter wheat (6).

Tillage: In a study in Oklahoma, greenbug populations were substantially reduced where surface residue was moderate to high, compared to conventionally tilled plots where residues were low (7). However, conservation tillage may lead to higher populations of oat-birdcherry aphid in spring small grains, as increased surface residue provides a favorable microhabitat for this species of aphid (8).

Biological Controls-

For aphids found on cereal crops, a study in Manitoba found that the number eaten by one lady beetle in 24 hours depended on the species of lady beetle and the species of aphid eaten. One female transverse lady beetle, *Coccinella transversoguttata*, ate 168-176 oat-birdcherry aphids in 24 hours, whereas one parenthesis lady beetle, *Hippodamia parenthesis*, consumed 50-67 English grain aphids in 24 hours. (9)

Rain and wind may decrease populations of aphids on cereal crops. (10).

Chemical control -

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (Days)	References
Barley, Oats, Rye & Wheat				
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	7	-
Dimethoate Cygon 480-AG/ Diamante 4 (barley, oats, and wheat only)	0.425 L	0.17 L	35	11
Field corn				
Flupyradifurone Sivanto prime	500-750 ml	202-304 ml	7 (silage, forage, sweet corn) 21 (grain)	
Sulfoxaflor Closer	75-150 ml	30-61 ml	7 (forage) 14 (grain)	
Tetraniliprole Vayego (suppression)	151 ml	61 ml	14	

Restrictions –

malathion: Do not apply at air temperatures below 20°C.

References –

1. Migui. 1996. M.Sc. Thesis. University of Manitoba.

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2. Halbert and Pike. 1985. *Annals of Applied Biology*. 107: 387-395.
3. Boeve and Weiss. 1998. *The Canadian Entomologist*. 67-77.
4. Johnston and Bishop. 1987. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 80: 478-482.
5. Wallin and Loonan. 1971. *Phytopathology*. 61: 1068-1070.
6. Hesler et al. 2005. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 98: 2020-2027.
7. Burton and Krenzer. 1985. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 78: 390-394.
8. Hesler and Berg. 2003. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 96: 1792-1797.
9. Malyk and Robinson. 1971. *The Manitoba Entomologist*. 89-95.
10. Malyk and Robinson. 1971. *The Manitoba Entomologist*. 79-88.
11. Harper, 1973. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 66: 1326.
12. Giles et al. 2003. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 975-982.
13. Chongrattanamateekul et al. 1991. *J. Appl. Entomol.* 249-253.

Armyworms

Mythimna unipuncta (Haworth) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
Sometimes also called true armyworms

Monitoring –

Adults: Pheromone lures are available to attract and capture male armyworm moths using either sticky traps (1) or bucket traps (2).

Larvae: Check the soil surface for armyworms, and the plants for feeding, when monitoring in mid-June through early-August. At each stop shake plants and carefully check soil surface for dislodged larvae. During the day larvae may be under plant trash, soil clods or in soil cracks. Check the backs of armyworms for parasite eggs.

Threshold –

A nominal threshold in small grains is four unparasitized larvae, smaller than 2.5 cm (1 inch) per square foot. For armyworms migrating into the field: Treat a couple of swaths ahead of the infestation in the direction of movement to form a barrier strip.

A study in Arkansas found that at boot and anthesis stages, wheat can sustain up to 75% defoliation by armyworms with little loss in yield, and even at populations that resulted in 75% defoliation head cutting was negligible (3).

Biological Controls-

In Ontario, 23 species of primary parasites were reared from armyworms (4); 16 of these species were Hymenoptera and seven species were Diptera. Fifteen of these species were commonly observed.

Cultural Control-

Resistant Cultivars – Some cultivars of Bt corn are resistant to feeding by armyworms.

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Barley, Oats And Wheat				
Seed Treatments				
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia	8-24 ml / 100 kg seed			
Foliar Insecticides				

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Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83-125 ml 250-375 ml	33.5-50.5 ml 101-152 ml	1	
Spinetoram Delegate	100 – 200 g	40-81 g	21	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, Zivata	83 ml	34 ml	28	
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	7	5
Rye				
Seed Treatments				
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia CPL	8-24 ml / 100 kg seed			
Foliar Insecticides				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83-125 ml 250-375 ml	33.5-50.5 ml 101-152 ml	1	
Spinetoram Delegate	100 – 200 g	40-81 g	21	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Labamba	83 ml	34 ml	28	
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	7	5
Corn				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83-125 ml 250 – 375 ml	33.5 – 50.5 ml 101 – 152 ml	14 (field corn) 1 (seed corn or sweet corn)	
Tetraniliprole Vayego	151 ml	61 ml	14	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, Zivata	83-208 ml (Matador, labamba) 83 ml (Silencer, Zivata)	34-84 ml (Matador, Labamba) 34 ml (Silencer, Zivata)	21 (field corn)	
Lambda-cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole Voliam Xpress	500 ml	202 ml	21 (field corn) 1 (sweet corn)	
Millet				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83-125 ml 250-375	33.5 – 50.5 ml 101-152 ml	1	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Labamba	83 ml	34 ml	28	

Restrictions –

Crops treated with lambda-cyhalothrin can't be used as animal feed. This includes straw, meal, etc.
Malathion: Do not apply at air temperatures below 20°C.

References –

1. Turgeon et al. 1983. Environ. Entomol: 891-894.
2. Hendrix and Showersi. 1990. J. Econ. Entomol. 596-598.
3. Steinkraus and Mueller. 2003. J. Entomol. Sci. 431-438.
4. Guppy. 1967. Can. Entomol. 94-106.
5. Smith, Pest. Res. Rep., 1976:177.

Brown Wheat Mite *Petrobia latens* (Müller) (Acarina: Tetranychidae)

Cultural Control –

Summerfallow; rotation with non-cereal crops. Mites cause greatest injury to grain stressed by water requirements. Mite damage is reduced by timely irrigation (1).

References –

1. Summers and Godfrey, UC IPM Guidelines, Pub 3339, 2000

Cereal Leaf Beetle *Oulema melanopus* L.(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

Economic Threshold-

Cereals can tolerate small to moderate amounts of feeding by cereal leaf beetle. A study in Alabama and Georgia suggested an economic threshold of 0.4 larvae per stem between spike emergence and anthesis in winter wheat (1). A study in Michigan found an economic threshold in winter wheat of at least 3 larvae per stem before the boot stage, or 1 larvae per flag leaf at the heading stage (4). Feeding damage remains visible for a long time after larvae drop to the soil to pupate. Before using chemical control, ensure larvae are still active on the crop.

Biological Control-

The larval parasitoid *Tetrastichus julis* (Walker) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) has been released and established in many areas of the Canadian prairies where cereal leaf beetle is present (2). Provide unsprayed corner or border of cereal leaf beetle–infested crops to allow establishment of *T. julis*. Some species of lady beetles will prey on eggs and larvae of cereal leaf beetle (3). Rainstorms may also cause some larval mortality (3).

Chemical Control-

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat, Barley, Oats				
Malathion Malathion 85E	1075 ml	435 ml	7	

References-

1. Buntin et al. 2004. J. Econ. Entomol. 97: 374-382.
2. Kher et al. 2011. Prairie Soils and Crops Journal. 4: 32-41.
3. Shade et al. 1970. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 63: 52-59.
4. Webster and Smith 1983. Crop Protection 2:431-436.

Corn Earworm

Helicoverpa zea (Boddie) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

Damage to field corn by corn earworm is generally not considered economic. Corn earworm can be a major problem on sweet corn, however.

Monitoring – Adults: Pheromone lures and traps are available to attract and capture male corn earworm moths.

Cultural Control-

Resistant Cultivars – Some cultivars of Bt corn are resistant to feeding by corn earworm.

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Corn Only				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 – 125 ml 250 – 375 ml	33.5 – 50.5 ml 101 – 152 ml	14 (field corn) 1 (seed corn or sweet corn)	
Tetraniliprole Vayego	151 ml	61 ml	14	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, Zivata	83 – 188 ml	34 ml – 76 ml	21 (field corn)	
Cypermethrin UP-Cyde, Ship	280 ml	113 ml	5	
Lambda-cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole Voliam Xpress	500 ml	202 ml	21 (field corn) 1 (sweet corn)	
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	5	

Restrictions –

Crops treated with lambda-cyhalothrin can't be used as animal feed. This includes straw, meal, etc.

Corn rootworm– northern corn rootworm, *Diabrotica barberi* S. & L. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)
western corn rootworm, *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeC. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

Cultural Control-

Crop Rotation – Larvae can survive only on the roots of corn and a limited number of grasses. Crop rotation is the primary management strategy for control of corn rootworm.

Resistant Cultivars – Some cultivars of Bt corn are resistant to feeding by corn rootworm. A table of registered Bt corn products in Canada (as of April 2024) is available at: <https://cornpest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Canadian-Bt-Traits-Table-April-2024-English.pdf>

Chemical Control-

Insecticide	Rate	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Corn			
Broflanilide Cimegra	250 ml/ha in furrow		

Cutworms	Lepidoptera (Noctuidae)
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Redbacked cutworm (*Euxoa ochrogaster*) Pale western cutworm (*Agrotis orthogonia*)
 Army cutworm (*Euxoa auxiliaris*)

Identification and Biology: A cutworm identification guide for the Canadian prairies is available at http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/aac-aafc/A59-42-2017-eng.pdf

Thresholds –

Pale western cutworm at 8.4 larvae/m² caused 25% loss in wheat and at 30 larvae/m² caused 100% loss. Control is usually justified when larvae exceed 3-4/m².

Nominal thresholds for redbacked and army cutworm are somewhat higher at 5-6/m². Well established fall-seeded crops or spring seeded crops with good moisture conditions can tolerate higher numbers.

Corn: Foliar insecticides are recommended when 2 - 4% of the plants are cut below the ground or 6 to 8% of the plants are cut above the soil surface, and cutworms less than 1 inch long are present. Damage below ground is more likely to kill the growing point, which is below ground until the 6-leaf stage.

Cultural Control –

Reduce egg laying by pale western cutworm adults in summerfallow fields by destroying all plant growth in July and allowing field to crust until 15 September. Severely infested fields should be treated before reseeding. In areas where redbacked cutworms are a problem, destroy weedy growth on fallow fields prior to August.

Studies and observations from Alberta show that pale western cutworm populations can be reduced by cultivating the soil and keeping it free of all plant growth for a 10-day period after the cutworms had hatched and before the crop was seeded (9).

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat, Barley, Oats				
Seed Treatments				
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia CPL	8-24 ml / 100 kg seed			
Foliar Insecticides				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 ml 250 ml	33.5 ml 101 ml	1	

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Deltamethrin Decis 100 EC Advantage Deltamethrin Poleci	99 ml 200 ml 400 ml	40 ml 81 ml 162 ml	31 (oats) 40 (barley, wheat)	3-6,8,11
Cypermethrin UP-Cyde, Ship (wheat and barley only)	285 ml	115 ml	21	
Permethrin Pounce, Perm-UP, IPCO Syncro	180-390 ml	73-158 ml	7	1,2,6-9, 11, 12
Rye				
Seed Treatments				
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia CPL	8-24 ml / 100 kg seed			
Foliar Insecticides				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 ml 250 ml	33.5 ml 101 ml	1	
Permethrin Pounce, Perm-UP, IPCO Syncro	180-390 ml	73-158 ml	7	
Corn				
Seed Treatments				
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia	64 ml / unit (80,000 seed unit)			
Cyantraniliprole Fortenza	83 – 167 ml / 100 kg seed			
Foliar Insecticides				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 ml 250 ml	33.5 ml 101 ml	14 (field corn) 1 (seed or sweet corn)	
Tetraniliprole Vayego	151 ml	61 ml	14	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, Zivata	83 ml	34 ml		
Cypermethrin UP-Cyde, Ship	285 ml	115 ml	21	
Permethrin Pounce, Perm-UP, IPCO Syncro Ambush	180-390 ml 140-300 ml	73-158 ml 57-121 ml	30	
Buckwheat, Millet				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen Max Coragen	83 ml 250	33.5 ml 101 ml	1	

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It may take several days for optimum control from an insecticide application. Not all cutworms will surface to feed on any given night and come in contact with the insecticide on the soil and plants. One of the reasons is that during moulting periods (between larval stages) the cutworms are inactive (10).

Use low rates when larvae are small, high rates later in the season or under dry conditions.
Apply in evening if possible.

Restrictions –

Crops treated with lambda-cyhalothrin can't be used as animal feed. This includes straw, meal, etc.
Deltamethrin: Do not graze fields. Do not use at temperatures above 25°C.

References –

Army Cutworm

1. McDonald, 1979. J. Econ. Entomol. 72: 277.

Pale Western Cutworm

2. McDonald, 1981. J. Econ. Entomol. 74: 45.
3. Wise et al., Pest. Res. Rep. 1982:183,184
4. Wise, Pest. Rep. 1983:174.
5. Wise, Pest. Rep. 1984:189.
6. Charnetski and Byers, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:185.
7. Hill and Byers, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:183,186.
8. Byers and Charnetski, Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:129.
9. Salt and Seamans, 1945. Can. Entomol. 77: 150-155.
10. Byers *et al.* 1992. J. Econ. Entomol. 85: 1146-1149.

Redbacked Cutworm

11. McDonald, 1981. J. Econ. Entomol. 74: 593-596.
12. Philip and Dolinski. Pest. Res. Rep. 1977: 215-216.

European Corn Borer

Ostrinia nubilalis (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)

Monitoring-

Adults: Pheromone-baited traps can be used to determine the onset and duration of European corn borer flight, and for initiating surveys of egg masses and shot hole damage (3). There are 2 pheromonal forms of the European corn borer, the Z or Iowa strain and the E strain. In the Canadian prairies, the European corn borer responds to the pheromone of the Iowa strain (4, 13). Delta-type traps were the most satisfactory of several tested for capturing moths under prairie conditions (4).

Eggs and leaf damage: Number of egg masses per plant and/or shot hole damage to leaves needs to be established to allow for timely implementation of control tactics. Sampling an entire corn plant is inefficient. Females are attracted to corn silks and deposit egg masses predominately on leaves near the ear (12).

Economic Thresholds –

Field Corn: For grain corn, the average grain weight reductions when stalk feeding was initiated during the 10-leaf, 16-leaf, blister and dough stages were 5.94, 5.01, 3.13, and 2.41 percent per larva per plant, respectively (11). Economic injury levels for larval populations initiating tunneling during different plant growth stages have been developed (11), and are of value in assessing the expected loss from European corn borer, however economic threshold values expressed in terms of the number of egg masses per plant need to be established to allow for timely implementation of control tactics.

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Silage Corn: Economic injury levels have been developed for European corn borer on corn grown for silage, however these studies were performed in Wisconsin where there are 2 generations of European corn borer per year (2).

Cultural Control-

Resistant Cultivars - Cultivars of Bt corn (which express proteins from *Bacillus thuringiensis*) are resistant to feeding by European corn borer. If planting cultivars of Bt corn, a refuge of non-Bt cultivars is required to be planted to reduce the odds of European corn borer developing resistance to Bt corn. There are 2 types of refuge. Some cultivars of Bt corn will be purchased containing an integrated refuge (sometimes referred to as refuge-in-a-bag), where seeds of a refuge cultivar have been pre-mixed with seeds of the Bt cultivar in the bag. The refuge cultivar typically comprises 5% or 10% of the seeds in the bag. Bt cultivars without an integrated refuge blended in need to have blocks or strips of a cultivar susceptible to European corn borer planted within or adjacent to the Bt cultivar. This is called a structured refuge. Growers of Bt corn are also required to monitor their crop for the presence of European corn borer and any feeding damage. Details of the scouting requirements can be found at:

<https://cornpest.ca/irm/#responsibilities>

A table of currently commercialized *Bt* corn products in Canada (as of April 2024) is available at: <https://cornpest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Canadian-Bt-Traits-Table-April-2024-English.pdf>

Stalk Management – Primary tillage such as chisel plowing or moldboard plowing in the fall can reduce overwintering populations. Mowing corn stalks after harvest can reduce overwintering populations up to 85% (1).

Intercropping- In Ontario, intercropping of corn with clover significantly reduced European corn borer damage compared with monocropped corn at the same planting density (5).

A corn and soybean intercrop reduced the number of stalks with European corn borer (6).

Biological Control- Inoculative releases of *Trichogramma ostrinae* in sweet corn can reduce the number of European corn borer larvae, stalk tunnels, and damage to ears (7).

Honeydew from corn leaf aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) can potentially be an important within-field food resource that may increase the success of augmentative control of European corn borer by *Trichogramma ostrinae* released into cornfields (10).

Lady beetles were the most numerous predators of European corn borer in a study in North Dakota, while green lacewings and *Orius insidiosus* were also present (8). The insidious flower bug, *Orius insidiosus* (Anthocoridae) will search for and feed on eggs of European corn borer and other caterpillars on corn (14).

Chemical Control –

Caution: Honey bees will forage for pollen from corn, with peak foraging in the morning and early afternoon. A study in Delaware found that foraging by honey bees on corn occurred from 6:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (15). If the corn is producing pollen and insecticides toxic to honey bees are to be used, insecticide application to corn should be timed to avoid this peak foraging activity of the honey bee.

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Corn				
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> Dipel 2X DF	560-1120 g	227 - 453 g	0	
Bioprotec CAF	2.79-4.0 L	1.13-1.62 L		
Bioprotec PLUS	1-8 – 2.5 L	0.73 – 1.0 L		

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Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 – 125 ml 250 – 375 ml	33.5 – 50.5 ml 101 – 152 ml	14 (field corn) 1 (seed corn or sweet corn)	
Tetraniliprole Vayego	151 ml	61 ml	14	
Methoxyfenoziide Intrepid	300 – 600 ml	121 – 243 ml	21 (field corn) 3 (sweet corn)	
Spinetoram Delegate	120 – 210 g	49– 85 g	1 (sweet and seed) 28 (field)	
Deltamethrin Decis 100 EC Advantage Deltamethrin Poleci	126-151 ml 250-300 ml 500-600 ml	51-61 ml 100-120 ml 202-243 ml	1	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, Zivata	83 - 187 ml	34 - 76 ml	21 (field corn)	
Cypermethrin UP-Cyde / Ship	280 ml	113 ml	5	
Lambda-cyhalothrin + Chlorantraniliprole Voliam Xpress	500 ml	202 ml	21 (field corn) 1 (sweet corn)	
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	5	
Millet				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	83 – 125 ml 250 – 375 ml	33.5 – 50.5 ml 101 – 152 ml	1	

Restrictions –

Crops treated with lambda-cyhalothrin can't be used as animal feed. This includes straw, meal, etc.

Reference –

1. Schaafsma et al. 1996. J. Econ. Entomol. 89: 1587-1592.
2. Myers and Wedberg. 1999. J. Econ. Entomol. 92: 624-630.
3. Palaniswamy et al. 1990. Can. Ent. 122: 1211-1220.
4. Struble et al. 1987. Can. Ent. 119: 291-299.
5. Lambert et al. 1987. J. Econ. Entomol. 80: 1192-1196.
6. Martin et al. 1989. J. Econ. Entomol. 82: 1455-1459.
7. Wright et al. 2002. Biological Control. 23: 149-155.
8. Frye. 1972. Environmental Entomology. 1: 535-536.
9. Musser and Shelton. 2003. J. Econ. Entomol. 96: 71-80.
10. Fuchsberg et al. 2007. Biological Control. 40: 230-236.
11. Bode and Calvin. 1990. J. Econ. Entomol. 83: 1595-1603.
12. Calvin et al. 1986. Environmental Entomology. 15: 1212-1219.
13. Smith et al. 2015. J. ent. Soc. Ont. 146: 41-49.
14. Reid. 1991. Journal of Economic Entomology. 84: 83-86.
15. Mason and Tracewski. 1982. Environmental Entomology. 11: 187-188.

Grasshoppers

(Orthoptera: Acrididae)

Pest species:

Species that may damage cereal crops and grain corn in Western Canada include the migratory (*Melanoplus sanguinipes*), two-striped (*Melanoplus bivittatus*), Packard (*Melanoplus packardii*), and clearwinged (*Camnula pellucida*) grasshoppers. The redlegged, *Melanoplus femurrubrum*, and Carolina, *Dissosteira carolina*, grasshoppers are rarely pests, but are known to feed on corn, wheat and barley. Do not control grasshoppers unless damage is apparent and thresholds are exceeded. Unless grasshopper nymphs are resulting in significant crop damage, avoid control actions until hatching of the pest species is nearly complete. Crop damage is more rapid in warm, dry weather and if the crop is drought-stressed.

Non-pest species:

Do not control any grasshoppers seen before late May or any grasshopper with red, yellow or orange hindwings (seen when flying).

Identification and Biology: A guide to identification and control of grasshoppers in the Canadian prairies is available to download at:

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2009/agr/A52-161E.pdf

Economic Thresholds in cereals –

Grasshopper stage	Threshold in field	Threshold in ditch
Nymphs	30 – 45 / m ²	50 – 75 / m ²
Fifth instar and adult	10 – 12 / m ²	21 – 40 / m ²

Cultural Control –

- Barrier strips of a non-preferred crop like oats, seeded at the margin of a field next to an infested area, may slow down young hoppers from invading susceptible crops. (16)
- Destroying green growth on stubble in the spring at the time of hatching may help to starve the young hoppers.
- Traps strips of weeds or barley, left in a summerfallow field adjacent to cropped land, attracts migrating hoppers to the strip where they can be controlled efficiently with insecticides. (17)

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat, Barley, Oats				
Spreadable Bran Baits				
Nosema locustae Nolo Bait	Minimum of 1.12 kg	Minimum of 0.45 kg		
Foliar Insecticides				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	42 – 83 ml 125-250 ml	17 – 34 ml 51-101 ml	1	

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Deltamethrin Decis 100 EC Advantage Deltamethrin Poleci	49-74 ml 100-150 ml 200-300 ml	20-30 ml 40-60 ml 81-121	31 (oats) 40 (wheat, barley)	6,8,15,18,19
Cypermethrin UP-Cyde, Ship (wheat and barley only); (young grasshoppers only)	81-114 ml	33-46 ml	30 (wheat) 45 (barley)	
Lambda-cyhalothrin Matador, Silencer, Labamba, zivata. (young grasshoppers only)	63-83 ml (ground), 83 ml (aerial)	25-34 ml (ground) 34 ml (aerial)	28	-
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	7	
Dimethoate Lagon 480 E	Nymphs: 550 ml Adults: 850 ml-1 L	Nymphs- 0.22 L Adults- 0.34-0.40 L	35	4
Rye				
Spreadable Bran Baits				
Nosema locustae Nolo Bait	Minimum of 1.12 kg	Minimum of 0.45 kg		
Sprays				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	42 – 83 ml 125-250 ml	17 – 34 ml 51-101 ml	1	
Malathion Malathion 85E	1.10-1.35 L	0.45-0.54 L	7	
Dimethoate Lagon 480 E	Nymphs: 550 ml Adults: 850 ml-1 L	Nymphs- 0.22 L Adults- 0.34-0.40 L	35	4
Corn				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX	42 – 83 ml	17 – 34 ml	14 (field corn) 1 (seed corn or sweet corn)	
Buckwheat, Millet				
Chlorantraniliprole Coragen MaX Coragen	42 – 83 ml 125-250 ml	17 - 34 ml 51-101 ml	1	

Product notes and Restrictions –

Crops treated with lambda-cyhalothrin can't be used as animal feed. This includes straw, meal, etc.
Nolo Bait: Nolo Bait contains spores of *Nosema locustae* applied to wheat bran. Infected grasshoppers become lethargic and reduce their feeding. Youngest grasshoppers usually die

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within 3 weeks of eating it, death of older grasshoppers may take longer. Healthy grasshoppers may cannibalize infected grasshoppers. This is a long-term suppression product.

Malathion: Do not apply at air temperatures below 20°C.

References –

1. Jacobson and Farstad, 1941. Can. Entomol. 73: 158.
2. Man. Dep. Agric. Bull., Agdex 605.
3. Pickford and Mukerji, 1974. Can. Entomol. 106: 1219.
4. Holmes et al., 1965. J. Econ. Entomol. 58: 77.
5. Charnetski, Pest. Res. Rep. 1975 : 210.
6. McDonald, Pest. Res. Rep. 1974:7.
7. Rourke and Baudic Fehr, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:171,176.
8. Stephen and Hagborg, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:172.
9. Johnson et al., Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:174.
10. Reichardt et al., Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:124.
11. Stephen et al., Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:148.
12. Wise and Scholtz, Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:149.
13. Mackasey et al., Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:147.
14. Rourke and Buth, Pest. Res. Rep. 1986:125.
15. Johnson et al., 1986. J. Econ. Entomol. 79:181-188.
16. Olfert, Grasslands and Grassland Health. 2000: 61-70.
17. Olfert, 1986. Can. Entomol. 118: 133-140.
18. Wise and Long, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985: 180.
19. Leader, Durling and Mader. Pest. Res. Rep. 1986: 153.

Hessian Fly

Mayetiola destructor (Say) (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae)

Economic Threshold: Not established.

Damage – Death of individual wheat and barley tillers or of the entire plant may result if numerous larvae are present (more than several per plant). Flaxseed-shaped puparia may be found at the base of plants.

Cultural Control –

- Never plant wheat in the same field 2 years in a row in areas where Hessian flies are a problem.
- Winter wheat planted in September will likely be free of Hessian flies.
- Eliminating or reducing volunteer wheat host plants may reduce fly population.
- Early seeded spring wheat is less susceptible to stem breakage caused by Hessian fly than later seeded wheat (1). Crop damage in Manitoba was found to be highest when spring wheat was sown in the first two weeks in June and was caused by the feeding of second generation larvae.
- The spring wheat cultivar Superb is partially resistant to Hessian fly (2,3).

Chemical Control -

- No insecticides are registered for the control of Hessian flies in cereals.

References -

1. Wise, 2007. Proc. Ent. Soc. Man. 63: 8-22.
2. Wise, Pest Man. Res. Rep. 2003:134-135.
3. Wise *et al.* 2006. Can. Entomol. 138: 638-646.

Seedcorn Maggot

Delia platura (Meigen) (Diptera: Anthomyiidae)

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Corn Only			
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia (suppression)	64 ml / unit (80,000 seed unit)		
Cyantraniliprole Fortenza (suppression)	167 ml / 100 kg seed		
Thiamethoxam Cruiser Maxx Corn	83 – 166 ml Cruiser 5FS / 100 kg seed		
Clothianidin Poncho 600 FS NipsIt INSIDE	33.3 – 66.6 ml per 80,000 unit of seed		

Restrictions-

Dust generated during planting of seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides may be harmful to bees and other pollinators.

When using a seed flow lubricant for planting corn or soybean seed treated with the neonicotinoid insecticides clothianidin, thiamethoxam or imidacloprid, only a dust-reducing fluency agent is permitted to minimize the potential for abrasion that produces insecticidal seed dust. Talc and graphite are not permitted to be used as a seed flow lubricant for corn or soybean seed treated with these insecticides. To help minimize the dust generated during planting, refer to “Pollinator Protection and Responsible Use of Treated Seed- Best Management Practices” on the Health Canada webpage on pollinator protection at <http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/pollinators>

Spider Mites

(Acari: Tetranychidae)

Spider mites (on corn)

Populations of spider mites may increase significantly under hot and dry conditions.

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Corn				
Spiromesifen Oberon	400 – 600 ml	162 – 243 ml	Green forage – 5 Grain or stover - 30	

Levels of spider mites may be increased by the use of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides (1) and some fungicides. Avoiding unnecessary pesticide applications and careful choice of products is encouraged when the risk of spider mites is high.

References -

1. Gerson and Cohen 1989. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 29-46.

Thrips	(Thysanoptera: Thripidae)
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Thrips (on barley, oats, and wheat)

Monitoring-

A sequential sampling plan has been developed for barley thrips (*Limothrips denticornis* Hal.) on barley (1). Adult barley thrips are counted on the top 2 leaf sheaths of barley on a minimum of 9 plants.

Decision limits^a for cumulative counts of barley thrips adults on the top 2 leaf sheaths of barley.

No. barley plants sampled	No treatment required	Treatment required
9	32	85
18	80	154
27	130	221
36	181	287

^aIf the cumulative count is less than or equal to the lower limit, an insecticide treatment is not recommended. If the cumulative count is greater than or equal to the upper limit, an insecticide application is recommended. Values between limits indicate a decision cannot be made and another nine samples must be taken.

Economic Threshold-

Research from North Dakota found that one adult barley thrips per stem of barley resulted in a loss of 0.4 bushels per acre (2).

Treat when thrips are equal to or greater than the number calculated by:

$$\text{Threshold (Thrips/stem)} = (\text{Cost of Control} \div \text{expected \$ value per bushel})/0.4$$

Insecticide treatments for barley thrips on barley are only economical when applied before heading is complete (3).

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate / ha	Rate / acre	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat, Barley & Oats				
Dimethoate Lagon, Cygon 480-AG, Diamante 4	1 L	0.40 L	35	4

References -

1. Bates *et al.* 1991. J. Econ. Entomol. 1630-1634.
2. Bates *et al.* 1991. Biology and Management of Barley Thrips. NDSU Extension Service : E-1007
3. Post. 1958. Dakota Farmer. 30-31.
4. Butts, Pest. Res. Rep. 1985:144.

Wheat Midge	<i>Sitodiplosis mosellana</i> (Géhin) (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae)
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Economic Threshold -

For yield only: 1 adult midge per 4 to 5 heads. At this level of infestation, common and durum spring wheat yields will be reduced by approximately 15% if the midge is not controlled.

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To maintain optimum grade: 1 adult midge per 8 to 10 wheat heads during the susceptible stage.

Damage –

Research in Saskatchewan found that infestations of 30, 60 and 90% of kernels infested reduced spring wheat yields by 40, 65 and 80% (1).

Midge Tolerant Wheat –

- There are many varieties of wheat resistant to feeding by wheat midge, all using the same gene, called *Sm1*. Seed is sold as a varietal blend, with 90% made up of a midge tolerant variety, and the remaining 10% midge susceptible. A Stewardship Agreement for midge tolerant wheat limits the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past Certified seed. These steps help prevent the buildup of a resistant population of wheat midge.

As of February 2024, there were 36 variety blends of wheat with midge tolerance, in 8 different classes of wheat (CWRS, CPSR, Durum, CWSP, CWSWS, CNHR, CWES, CWHWS).

For an updated list of midge tolerant wheat varieties and information to protect their effectiveness see: <https://midgetolerantwheat.ca/farmers/>

Cultural Control –

- Rotate Crops – Continuous wheat cropping encourages higher wheat midge populations.
- Seed alternate crops including barley.
- Farming practices which promote greater crop uniformity during heading and flowering (uniform seeding depth, higher seed rates to reduce tillering) reduce midge kernel damage but may not eliminate the need for chemical control.

Biological Control – A parasitoid, *Macroglanes penetrans*, was found to control an average of 33% of the wheat midge in Saskatchewan (2).

Ground beetles (Carabidae) will feed on larvae of wheat midge when they are in the soil (3).

Chemical Control –

Insecticide	Rate (g or L/ha)	Rate (g or L/acre)	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat Only				
Dimethoate Cygon 480-AG, Lagon, Diamante 4	1 L	0.40 L	35	4,5,6,7

Sprays should be applied in the late afternoon or evening when temperatures exceed 15°C and the wind speed is less than 10 km/ha. To obtain full benefits from insecticidal sprays, thorough coverage of the wheat heads is essential. In general, application methods which improve the uniformity and amount of spray deposited on wheat heads (higher water volumes, finer spray droplets, 45° nozzle orientation) provide better kernel protection and subsequent grade or yield improvements.

References -

1. Olfert et al., 1985. Can. Entomol. 117:593-598.
2. Olfert et al., 2003. Can. Entomol. 135:303-308.
3. Floate et al. 1990. Environ. Entomol. 19: 1503-1511.
4. Dexter et al., 1987. Can. J. Plant Sci. 67:697-712.
5. Elliot, 1988. Can. Entomol. 120:615-626.
6. Sask. Ag. Midge Bull. 1988. 2 pp.

7. Elliot, 1988. Can. Entomol. 120:941-954.

Wheat Stem Maggot

Meromyza americana Fitch (Diptera: Chloropidae)

Plants with wheat stem maggot may have white heads which contain no kernels at a time when heads on uninfested plants are still green (1).

Cultural Control – Crop rotation can limit damage in small grain cereals.

Biological Control – Six species of hymenopterous parasites of wheat stem maggot were found in cereal crops in South Dakota (2).

References -

1. Branson et al. 1967.
2. Morrill and Kieckhefer. 1971. J. Econ. Entomol. 64: 1129-1131.

Wheat Stem Sawfly

Cephus cinctus Norton (Hymenoptera: Cephidae)

The stem-feeding larvae can be an economical pest of wheat through cutting (lodging) and yield reduction. Wheat stem sawfly can complete its life cycle in all cereal crops except oats. Durum wheat and barley are not as susceptible to stem lodging as the bread wheat class (1).

Economic Thresholds -

Control required if 10-15% of crop in previous year is cut by sawfly. Cut stems are usually not harvestable, but even if infested stems were harvestable, yield loss in wheat averaged 17% (11-22%) (2).

Cultural Control -

Solid stem varieties (undifferentiated parenchyma cells that create a solid pith):

The following **Canadian Western Red Spring** wheat variety blends have semi-solid stems, and may provide some tolerance to wheat stem sawfly:

CDC Adamant VB, CDC Landmark VB, and CDC Hughes VB.

Note that the refuge variety in each of these variety blends is hollow stemmed.

The **Durum** varieties AAC Grainland, AAC Stronghold, CDC Fortitude, and AAC Weyburn VB have solid stems that confer resistance to wheat stem sawfly. Note that AAC Weyburn VB contains a 10% refuge of a hollow stem variety.

The **Canadian Northern Hard Red** wheat variety AC Lillian provides resistance to wheat stem sawfly.

The level of sawfly control with solid-stem bread wheat varieties can vary depending on environmental conditions. High precipitation and low light intensity can decrease pith expression (Reviewed by Peirce et al.) (3).

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Biological Control -

A parasitoid, *Bracon cephi* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae), can reduce populations of wheat stem sawfly in localized areas (4).

Parasitoids of wheat stem sawfly can be conserved by increasing stubble height at harvest and by restricting insecticide applications during peak flight of the adult parasitoids (1).

Chemical Control -

No insecticides are registered for wheat stem sawfly.

References -

1. Beres et al. 2011. Can. Entomol. 143: 105-125.
2. Holmes, 1977. Can. Entomol. 109:1591.
3. Peirce et al. 2022. Journal of Integrated Pest Management. 29; 1-10.
4. Holmes et al. 1963. Can. Entomol. 95: 113-126.

Wireworms

(Coleoptera: Elateridae)

Pest wireworms on the prairies are a mix of native species, with fields often containing at least two species. A survey identifying 5,704 specimens of wireworms (3,548 larvae, 2,156 beetles) collected from 571 farmland locations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba from 2004 to 2019 found that common wireworms in the Canadian prairie provinces include *Hypnoidus bicolor* (57.5%), the prairie grain wireworm *Selatosomus aeripennis destructor* (22.4%), and in the western part of the prairies the sugarbeet wireworm *Limonius californicus* (14.8%) (1). Two or more species were collected at 29% of sampling locations. In Manitoba, *H. bicolor* was highly dominant, 93.3 of specimens identified, whereas in Saskatchewan *H. bicolor* comprised 45.7% of the specimens identified, and the prairie grain wireworm 42.6%. In Alberta, *H. bicolor* was the most common species (52.4%), while *L. californicus* was the second most common species (23.0%). Other species of wireworms, including invasive species, are more common in other regions of Canada.

Identification and Biology: A “Guide to Pest Wireworms in Canadian Prairie Field Crop Production” is available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/aac-aafc/A42-125-2021-eng.pdf

Cultural Control -

Shallow seeding into moisture and firm packing may reduce damage.

Biological Control –

The fungus *Metarhizium brunneum* (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) can infect and kill wireworms (2).

Chemical Control –

Seed treatments only. There are no insecticides registered to control click beetles, the adult form of wireworms.

Insecticide	Rate	Preharvest Interval (days)	References
Wheat, Barley, Oats And Rye			
Broflanilide Teraxxa F4	300 ml/100 kg seed		5

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Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia CPL	24-40 ml / 100 kg seed		
Cyantraniliprole Fortenza (wheat, barley and oats only)	17 – 50 ml / 100 kg of seed		
Thiamethoxam Cruiser Vibrance Quattro	325 ml / 100 kg seed		
Cruiser 5FS (wheat, barley and rye only)	17-50 ml / 100 kg seed		
Imidacloprid Raxil ProShield (wheat, barley and oats only) Sombbrero 600 FS (wheat, barley, and oats only)	A co-pack of Raxil Pro and StressShield 600 17 – 50 ml / 100 kg seed		
Clothianidin NipsIt SUITE Cereals (wheat only) NipsIt INSIDE (wheat, barley, and oats only)	326 ml / 100 kg seed 17 – 100 ml / 100 kg seed		
Corn			
Broflanilide Cimegra	250 ml/ha in furrow	-	
Cyantraniliprole Fortenza	Seed treatment		
Chlorantraniliprole Lumivia	64 ml / unit (80,000 seed unit)		
Thiamethoxam Cruiser Maxx Corn	83 ml Cruiser 5FS / 100 kg seed	-	
Clothianidin Poncho 600FS NipsIt INSIDE	33.3-66.6 ml per 80,000 unit of seed	-	-
Imidacloprid Sombbrero	0.16 mg per kernel		

Wireworms exposed to neonicotinoid insecticides (clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid) become intoxicated long enough for the crop to become established, but the wireworms may fully recover later in the season.

Some neonicotinoid insecticides may result in wireworms moving to the soil surface where they may be at greater risk of desiccation or predation (3).

The efficacy of insecticides for wireworm control may be affected by the species of wireworm present (4).

Restrictions-

Dust generated during planting of seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides may be harmful to bees and other pollinators.

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References -

1. van Herk et al. 2021. Environmental Entomology. 50: 663-672
2. Kabaluk and Ericsson. 2007. Environmental Entomology. 36: 1415-20.
3. Vernon et al. 2008. J. Econ. Entomol. 365-374.
4. van Herk et al. 2007. J. Entomol. Soc. Brit. Columbia. 55-63.
5. van Herk et al. 2021. J. Econ. Entomol. 161-173.