Wheat Entomology Newsletter May 15th, 2023

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AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee

Wheat Stem Sawfly

We recorded our first sawfly capture of the season on May 8th at Orchard, CO. Two male sawflies were found in our sweeps ~10 miles south of Highway 14. Males typically emerge a few days prior to females. With the forecast predicting frequent storms/precipitation for the coming days, it's possible that there may be a delay in sawfly emergence. While the sawfly populations usually peak in late May to early June, variation from this pattern is possible (i.e. our 2012 data in **Figure 1**). In 2022, we had several instances where we encountered wet, windy conditions which presumably led to low adult numbers recorded on those days (**Figure 1**).

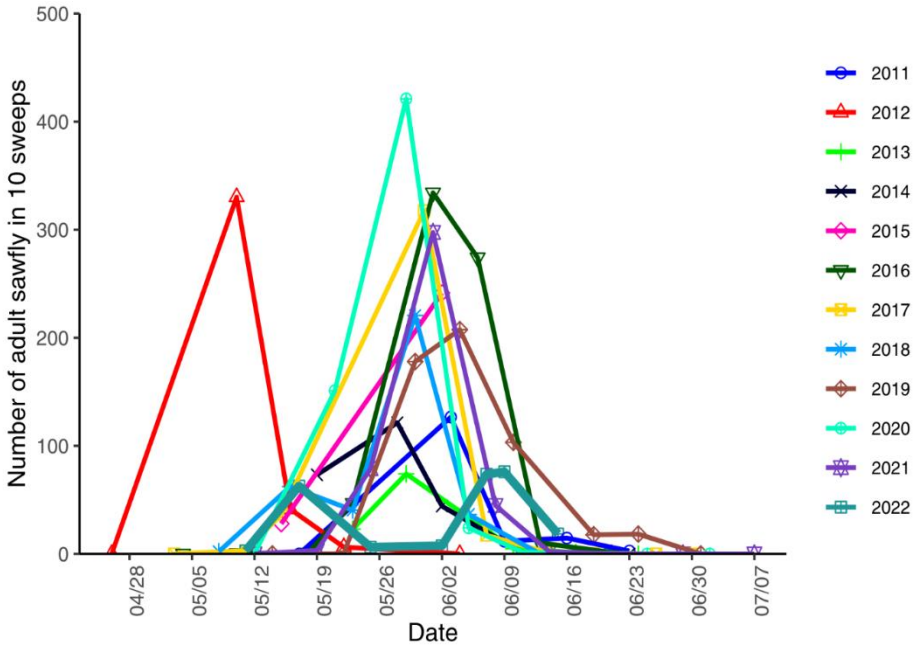

Figure 1: Historical WSS flight numbers in New Raymer and Orchard, CO. The thick teal line is 2022 data.

An updated version of our flight graph will be made available in future issues of the Colorado Wheat Entomology Newsletter.

Brown Wheat Mite

Kevin Larson (CSU Extension) has reported significant brown wheat mite activity throughout much of Southeastern Colorado. This report continues the trend we heard from Ron Meyers and Kat Caswell (CSU Extension) in our previous issue, who observed these pests from Walsh through the Burlington area. Some fields have recently been sprayed to aid in mite control. If insecticides are utilized, we recommend using dimethoate insecticides. Growers can also search

the soil at the base of infected plants for mite eggs. If large numbers of red eggs are found, more mites are likely to still emerge in the coming weeks. If white eggs are found, mites likely won't emerge in your crop until later in the fall **(Figure 2).** These white eggs are indicators of a natural over-summer diapause period and population decline. More information about these pests can be found at Mites in Wheat - 5.578 - Extension (colostate.edu).

Figure 2: Picture depicting a red (active) mite egg in the center, with two white (diapause) eggs flanking it. (Photo credit: Oklahoma State University Extension)

Russian Wheat Aphid

In addition to his reporting on brown wheat mites, Kevin Larson also noted reports of finding Russian wheat aphids in Southeastern Colorado. He indicated that populations discovered so far were below threshold control levels.

Scout your fields regularly for the white or purple chlorotic streaking that the aphids cause. More information on Russian wheat aphid management can be found at https://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/insect-information/crop-pests/wheat/russian.html

Wheat Diseases

For wheat disease updates by Dr. Robyn Roberts, please see:
https://coloradowheat.org/category/news-events/wheat-pest-and-disease-update/

Acknowledgements

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