DECEMBER 2022

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

GRASSHOPPER CYCLES THROUGH GOSHEN

Historically, Goshen county has a grasshopper outbreak every 10 years. Grasshopper outbreaks occur when the area is under drought conditions, since their egg pods are vulnerable to fungus in wet soil. When the soil is very dry, it allows for eggs to have higher percentage of full hatches and swarms can develop. The USDA APHIS conducts surveys each summer of grasshopper populations throughout the county. High populations give GCWP reasoning to apply for the Emergency Insect Management Grant (state funds) to provide assistance to Goshen landowners. The whitewhiskered and whitecrossed grasshoppers are two pest species that have known to invade in dry conditions and can be incredibly destructive to range and pasture land.

Ageneotettix deorum or Whitewhiskered Grasshopper - species is common in rangelands while feeding on grass and sedges, a small amount of forbs and plant litter are also consumed. They will clip leaves when feeding, wasting more than they eat. **Treat species when hatch is fresh and grasshoppers are in early stages of life to better protect grazing land.** Hatches in mid-spring during a 4-6 week period and densities can be greater than 30 per square yard. control treatments should take place almost immediately after hatch.

Aulocara femoratum or Whitecrossed Grasshopper- also a range species and feeds almost exclusively on grasses and sedges. Males ingested much larger amounts of short grass species and sedges, whereas the females consumed larger amounts of mid grasses such as western wheatgrass. **Treat species when hatch is fresh and grasshoppers are in early stages of life to better protect grazing land.** Hatches in mid-spring and control treatments should take place almost immediately after hatch.

Melanoplus bivittatus or Twostriped Grasshopper - a trash eating species and is found in lawns, gardens and burrow ditches. This species feeds on many kinds of plants including grasses, forbs, trees, shrubs, and many cultivated crop plants, along with plant litter and dead insects. Adults are capable of dispersal and migration flights. **Destructive on gardens and flower beds.**

DALMATIAN TOADFLAX TREATING DURING WINTER

By now we hope most Goshen county landowners know that GCWP offers a cost-share program for Dalmatian toadflax. While Dalmatian toadflax is mainly found south of the North Platte River, it has been found further north each year. GCWP has found positive results when treating toadflax during winter months. Each year through grant funding GCWP helps landowners control Dalmatian toadflax. Since 2019 GCWP Dalmatian toadflax program has treated on average approximately 1,800 acres each year. When dealing with small or large infestations of Dalmatian toadflax call in to the office and we can get a treatment program set up.

Control measures...

Chemical control includes indaziflam (Rejuvra), chlorsulfuron (Telar), picloram (Tordon), and 2,4-D, typically in some combination.
Fire, grazing, and tillage are generally not effective.
Biocontrol agents are available

http://www.goshenweedandpest.com/dalmatian-toadflax.html

STAY IN THE KNOW

- Dec 8th- GCWP Board Meeting
- Dec 23rd-31st - Holiday Break (office closed)

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