JANURARY
2021

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

CONTROLING WINTER-SUMMER ANNUALS

What is a winter annual? Winter annual weeds typically emerge in late summer and fall, survive through the winter by growing into small rosettes close to the ground. These plants are the first to green up and grow in the spring and produce seeds in late spring or early summer of the following year. Plant completes its lifecycle after flowering and setting seed. *Can plants be summer and winter annuals?* Plants can be winter annuals but can also germinate when conditions are favorable. Which can be in the spring or mid-summer, following a summer annual life cycle.

Marestail (Horseweed)

OVERWINTER STAGE

MATURE PLANT

FLOWERING/SEEDING

Fall-emerged horseweed becomes dormant over the winter, plants start to bolt in April/May. Flowering occurs in July and seeds disperse from August to October and completes life cycle. Making horseweed difficult to control.

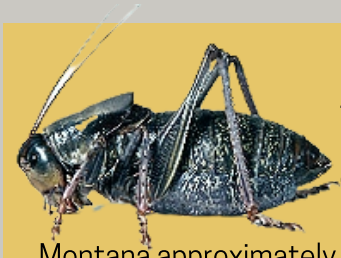
Cheatgrass (Downey Brome)

MATURE PLANT

FLOWERING/SEEDING

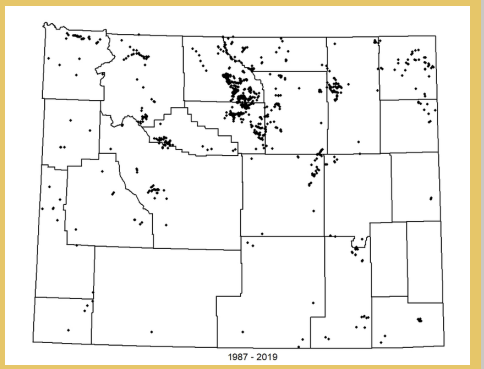
OVERWINTER STAGE

Cheatgrass is known to be destructive and invasive. Being an annual or winter annual that reproduces solely through seed production. Cheatgrass grows rapidly until cold temperatures arrive, although above-ground growth may continue during warm or rainy conditions.



WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON MORMON CRICKETS

Although historically Goshen county hasn't had issues with Mormon cricket infestations, this insect can cause huge economical damage. In 1937, areas of Montana and Wyoming had devastating infestations of Mormon cricket populations. Migrating bands of nymphs or adults may completely destroy fields of sugar beets, small grains, and alfalfa. This outbreak cost Montana approximately $500,000 and in Wyoming around $383,000. A Mormon cricket outbreak can last from 5 to 21 years. The most recent major outbreak was reported in 1931 and continued for 17 years. At the peak of the infestation in 1938, 19 million acres in 11 states were infested and had devastating results.



Mormon crickets have been known to feed on more than 400 species of plants, but depending on the time of year it preferers certain succulent forbs. Eating habits allow one cricket to consume roughly 38 pounds of dry weight per acre.

The Mormon cricket is a very mobile insect, due to their short wings, they're unsuited for flight. The flightless insect moves in cohesive bands and may cover from one-half to one mile in a day and travel from 25 to 50 miles in a season.

Historically Mormon crickets are often found within the Black Hills and Big Horn Basin. Summer 2021, Mormon cricket infestations were found in Washakie county, other counties had recorded populations that did not reach the economic threshold for necessary treatment. It's safe to say insect infestations can be just as economically damaging as invasive weed species.

Happy New Year!

STAY IN THE KNOW

- Jan 13- GCWP Board Meeting
- Feb 21- President's Day Office Closed

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