MARCH 2024

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

FUN FACT

POISONOUS PLANT - *SILKY LOCOWEED*

- *Poisonous to cattle, horses, sheep, goats and wildlife*
- *Causes; neurological damage, reproductive dysfunction, and abortion.*
- *Grows in clumps, tufts*
- *Blue, purple, yellow or white flowers resemble sweet peas.*
- *Locoweed is poisonous at all stages of growth and is dangerous throughout the year, even when they have matured and dried.*
- *Locoweed is known to be addictive*
- *Prevention: restrict access to locoweed until other green and palatable vegetation is available.*
- *No treatments have been found to prevent or treat poisoning.*

UNDERSTANDING GRASSOPPERS

Grasshopper populations often reach concerning numbers in Goshen County. The past couple summers there has been several landowners treat for grasshoppers with the help of Goshen County Weed & Pest cost-share program. GCWP wants landowners to focus on some key points when you see concern of grasshopper populations on your land.

How many grasshoppers are there?

- To determine if a grasshopper population has reached the economic threshold, it is important to accurately estimate grasshopper population density.
- What is the economic threshold? - Number of insects that can cause yield losses equal to or greater than the cost of management.
- For example; a density of grasshoppers showing 14 or greater per square yard could warrant treatment.

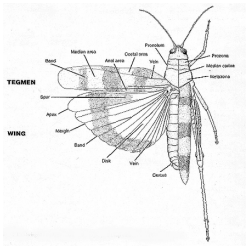
How old are they?

It is VERY important to identify the age of a grasshopper to have a successful treatment. Insecticides that are insect growth regulators must be applied while the grasshopper is immature. The best way to determine age is to collect at least 30 grasshoppers with an insect net and examine the wing and body length.

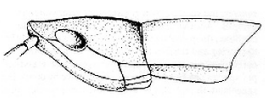
- Most pest species hatch from mid-May to late June and have five nymphal instars.
- Grasshopper species, temperature and soil moisture influence timing of hatch.

What kind of grasshoppers?

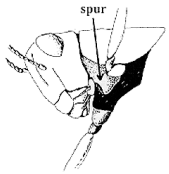
Pest grasshoppers occur in three subfamilies: slant-faced, spur-throated and band-winged.



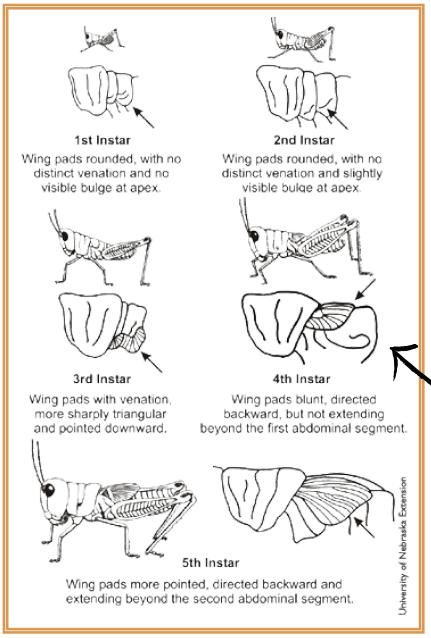
- Band-winged grasshoppers have bright red or yellow hind wings as nymphs.
- Large bodied.



- Slant-faced grasshoppers are often brown or grey as nymphs.
- Shows a slant face with a big head.



- Spur-throated grasshoppers are often green as nymphs.
- Spine on the "throat" of the grasshopper



Which instar is best for successful treatment?

- The best time to control grasshoppers is during the 3rd and 4th instars.
- When they are 1/2 to 3/4 inch long.
- These stages will occur in mid to late June.

STAY IN THE KNOW

- March 14 - GCWP Board Meeting @ 10:30am
- March 26-28 -Spring Workshop (office closed)

307.532.3713 GOSHENWEEDANDPEST.COM GOCOWEEDS@GMAIL.COM
P.O. BOX 757 TORRINGTON, WY 82240