MARCH 2025

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

Spend your summer with GCWP

Spray Operator
- May-September
- Mon-Thurs
- Outdoor summer job
- Able to carry a 40lb pack
- Meet fun people

Mosquito Technician
- June-September
- Flexible schedule
- Collect mosquito traps
- Operate fogger vehicle

Find job applications @ www.goshenweedandpest.com or 307-532-3713

BLACK GRASS BUGS

Come summer GCWP receives phone calls on black grass bug concerns, typically these phone calls come just after the correct timing to control the bugs with insecticide. Black grass bugs have a wide range of hosts. These insects prefer feeding on grasses, often crested wheat grass.

Signs of Injury

Injury to crops occurs in the spring. Black grass bugs damage the crops by a piercing/sucking feeding. You'll notice white spots on the leaf surface and the grass becomes yellow and brittle (straw-colored, like frost damage), this is a result of the destruction of chlorophyll. Which reduces grass vigor and palatability to cattle.

Scouting

It is important to do sweeps of black grass bugs in the spring as temperatures warm and the eggs begin to hatch. Once the grasses are noticeably damaged then the grass bugs have already done their damage and moved on. Heavy infestations may prevent seed formation, and when combined with drought conditions or grazing, repeated infestations can kill host plants.

Straw-colored, frost damage

White spots on the leaf surface

Controlling Black Grass Bugs

One well timed application of insecticide may reduce bug numbers to a non-economic level for many years. GCWP recommends one application if landowners contacts us before damage is done. Insecticides will kill the adult insects but will have no effect on eggs laid in grass stems. If enough eggs are present, black grass bug infestation will occur in the next growing season. Putting up hay and removing it from the field may be a management technique for reducing the number of eggs. Grazing management can have positive results as it can significantly reduce the impact of black grass bugs in crested wheatgrass.

PRE-EMERGENT VS. STERILANT HERBICIDE

Just another thing to think about before summer! Both pre-emergent and ground sterilants need to be properly applied and timing is the KEY!

Pre-emergent herbicide - work on seeds that are about to germinate, does not harm established plants.

Hint: one can apply a pre-emergent herbicide to a garden before planting flowers or produce (not seeds) to prevent unwanted weeds.

Sterilant herbicide - Soil sterilant herbicides are a "total kill" product that last in the soil for long periods. They are not designed for home use around gardens and landscapes. Also they can be water-soluble, can move with rain or irrigation water through soil to the roots of desirable trees, shrubs and other plants.

Note: these products may kill the weeds you don't want, they may also kill your favorite tree from some distance.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

CUSTOM APPLICATION DRONE DEMONSTRATION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY SOUTH GOSHEN & NORTH PLATTE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MARCH 14, 2025 @ 10AM
THE ROSS FARM
946 CR 40 YODER, WY 82244

CALL 307-575-0126 FOR MORE INFO

STAY IN THE KNOW

- March 11th - GCWP Board Meeting
- March 11th -13th - Spring Workshop Office Closed

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