Alfalfa Weevil Adults, and Hornworms on Non-Alfalfa Crops
(also true armyworms and alfalfa caterpillars)

May 29, 2001 (Revision of earlier document)

In some cases, alfalfa weevil adult populations from these non-treated Kansas alfalfa fields are so heavy they are moving out of the alfalfa fields and into nearby soybeans, causing extensive damage.

Hornworms include larvae of the white-lined sphinx (page 430 in Insects in Kansas) and related species. Large numbers of hornworms appear to be present in several no-till fields that had mustard and possibly other weeds present. Burndown herbicides just before planting eliminated their normal food source and they are moving over to feed on newly emerging crops. We have had reports of soybeans, sunflowers, sorghum, and corn receiving some damage from these insects.

FMC has issued a Section 2(ee) recommendation for the use of Pounce 3.2EC against alfalfa weevil adults and hornworms on soybeans and a second 2(ee) recommendation providing for hornworm control on field corn. The 2(ee) recommendation for soybeans allows for 4 to 8 fl. oz. of Pounce 3.2EC per acre on soybeans (60-day preharvest interval) such that no more than 0.4 lb. a.i. (16 oz.) is used per acre per season. The 2(ee) recommendation for corn allows for 4 to 8 fl. oz. of Pounce 3.2EC per acre (30-day preharvest interval) such that no more than 0.6 lb. a.i. (24 oz.) is used per acre per season. All other label directions must be followed.

Syngenta issued Section 2(ee) recommendations for the use of some formulations of Warrior for control of hornworm spp. and alfalfa weevil (adult) in corn, sorghum (grain), soybean, and sunflower in the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa only. The 2(ee) recommendation makes reference to Warrior (EPA Reg. No. 10182-96; issued May 25) and Warrior T (EPA Reg. No. 10182-434; issued May 29). The rates and waiting intervals are as follows: corn (field corn, popcorn, seed corn) at 0.02 to 0.03 lb. a.i./acre or 2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz./acre with a 21-day harvest interval; soybean at 0.02 to 0.03 lb. a.i./acre or 2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz./acre with a 45-day preharvest waiting interval; sorghum (grain) at 0.02 to 0.03 lb. a.i./acre or 2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz./acre with a 30-day preharvest waiting interval; and sunflower at 0.02 to 0.03 lb. a.i./acre or 2.56 to 3.84 fl. oz./acre with a 45-day preharvest waiting interval. See the 2(ee) recommendation and the full label for additional restrictions including limitations associated with specific stages of plant development. This Warrior 2(ee) recommendation contains the following statement: This recommendation should be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application.

I have not seen efficacy data on these crop/pest combinations, however Pounce and Warrior with Zeon Technology labels indicate they each provide control of hornworms on tomatoes.
Addendum #1 (May 26, 2001).

We have received four more labels from FMC regarding this issue. One for Capture 2E on corn and Three for Furadan 4F one on sunflowers, one on corn and one on soybeans. Plus two revised labels for Pounce listing more states and adding true armyworm one on corn and one on soybeans.

Addendum #2 (May 30, 2001)

A FIFRA 2(ee) recommendation for Pounce 3.2EC was just received. It has been updated to add alfalfa caterpillar as a target pest on soybeans. Although normally a pest of alfalfa, infestations of alfalfa caterpillar have been reported on soybeans in some SC Kansas locations.

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