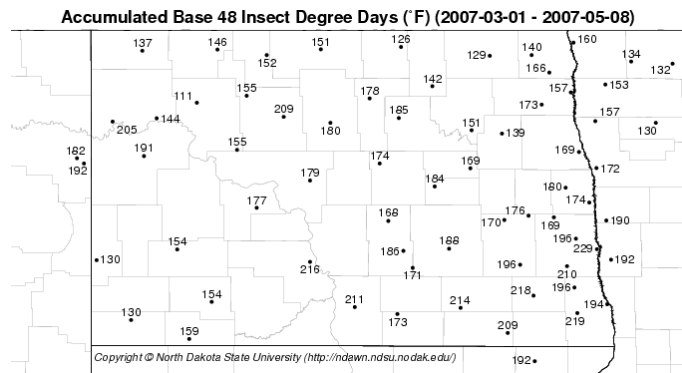


Spring has sprung, the alfalfa's ris, I wonder where the weevil is?

Alfalfa weevils are currently in the adult stage, and are in the process of migrating to alfalfa fields to mate and lay eggs. Although the most damaging stage of the weevil will not occur until the 2nd through 4th instar, now is a good time to review scouting for alfalfa weevil larvae. The insect degree day model is a useful tool to predict when damaging stages will occur. Use the table below and compare degree days in your area to determine alfalfa weevil stage in your area. The NDAWN website has an application section that will calculate accumulated growing degree days for you. <http://www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/insectdd-form.html> Select a base temperature of 48 for alfalfa weevil.

Alfalfa Weevil Developmental Stage	Accumulated Growing Degree Days (base 48)
Egg	300
1 st instar	371
2nd instar	438
3rd instar	504
4th instar	595
Pupae	814



Scout fields by sampling 10 stems in 5 locations in an M or X pattern in the field. Alfalfa weevil larvae will feed at the growing point of the alfalfa plant. Examine stems by beating stems inside of a white bucket (or something similar) to remove weevil larvae from plant. Young larvae are slate colored; as they mature, they turn bright green with a white stripe running down their back, and have a black head capsule. They are only 3/8-inch long, and may be difficult to see on the plant without using the bucket method. If two or more larvae are found per stem, and alfalfa is less than 15 inches tall, insecticide treatment may be necessary. Please refer to your ND Field Crop Insecticide Guide, or http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/entupdates/ICG_07/08_ForageCropInsects07.pdf for alfalfa weevil management details.



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