



**Ag Talk Tuesday Newsletter
May 10, 2019, Volume 1, Issue 1**

This newsletter summarizes and, in some cases, expands on material covered during UI Ag Talk Tuesdays. Ag Talk Tuesday is a periodic session for those in agriculture and UI Extension personnel to discuss current problems in agriculture. These sessions are typically held first and third Tuesdays during the growing season at different sites across south central and south eastern Idaho. In 2019, the start time is 8:00 AM.

Editors:

Kasia Duellman
Pam Hutchinson
Juliet Marshall

The first UI Ag Talk Tuesday of the 2019 season was held May 7, hosted by the Idaho AgCredit office in Blackfoot. In attendance were Juliet Marshall (UI Cereals agronomist/pathologist), Pam Hutchinson (UI Weed Specialist), Arash Rashed (UI Entomologist), Reed Findlay (Bingham/Bannock counties Extension Educator), Kasia Duellman (UI Extension seed potato specialist), Avery Robertson (Idaho AgCredit), Britt Beene (Corteva), Dave Alexander (Potato Country), and Brian Feist (Potato Country).

Early-Season Insect Pests – Wireworms, Thrips

Arash Rashed, UI Entomologist

During this week's Ag Talk Tuesday, we talked about some of the ongoing and recent insect pest issues. Thrips in alfalfa (see below) and wireworms in cereals (wheat and barley), legumes and potatoes were the main topics which were discussed. Neonicotinoid seed treatments are the only available registered chemistry against wireworms in small grains, but neonics do not cause considerable mortality; they mostly function as feeding deterrents. Chemicals with considerable mortality effects against wireworms are available for application in other crops, such as potato and legumes. Rotation with these non-cereal crops would allow for the application of more effective chemistries which could reduce wireworm populations. A recent greenhouse study by our team showed that wheat performance was improved when it followed legumes that were treated with the pyrethroid bifenthrin in wireworm infested pots; field results are currently being analyzed. Results from our wireworm monitoring program are coming in. Wireworms are now active, and so far, numbers appear to be similar to those of previous years at this time. For more information on wireworm monitoring and management please follow this link:

<https://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/BUL/BUL0898.pdf>

In addition, we discussed some questions related the use of pyrethroids and when they are best utilized. Always remember that while pyrethroids can reduce pest populations, they will also eliminate natural enemies from the environment, because they are broad-spectrum insecticides. This can result in subsequent flare ups of the pest, as well as secondary pests, in the absence of natural enemies.

Thrips in Alfalfa in Blackfoot and Mud Lake

Reed Findlay, UI Extension Educator – Bannock/Bingham counties

Thrips in alfalfa in Blackfoot and at Mud Lake appeared to be a problem in 2018. Growers at the 2018 and 2019 Forage Schools in Blackfoot expressed a concern that thrips were coming in from the west desert and causing economic damage to the alfalfa crop. The damage was especially heavy in newly

seeded fields. Current knowledge and research indicate that thrips usually reach economic thresholds following the application of broad-spectrum insecticides that kill off the beneficial and predatory insects, paving the way for thrips populations to increase. During the 2018 growing season we watched alfalfa fields for thrips. However, there were several fields damaged by thrips that had not been treated with insecticides. This information does not fit with current recommendations for thrips.

We are implementing a thrips monitoring program for this growing season (2019). It is critical to determine the species of the thrips since it is thought that the western flower thrips do not do as much damage as onion thrips. There is some evidence that we may have both species. It is also critical to determine where the thrips are coming from so that they can be controlled early. There is some evidence that the thrips population is building on the surrounding rabbitbrush plants in the area.

Area alfalfa growers will be included in the study. They have expressed great interest in studying and learning the life cycle of this new pest problem. They will be critical in allowing access to alfalfa fields and the surrounding range area of rabbitbrush.

If you have any questions regarding thrips in forages, potato, or other crops grown in south or southeastern Idaho, please contact Reed Findlay (UI Extension Educator – Bannock/Bingham counties; 208-236-7310), Jon Hogge (UI Extension Educator – Madison County; 208-745-6685), or Jason Thomas (UI Extension Educator – Minidoka county; 208-436-7184).

Cereals Report: Snow molds, stripe rust in the region, Rhizoctonia diseases, and planting progress
Juliet Marshall, UI Cereals Agronomist and Plant Pathologist

Over the winter, there were many areas that had long-term snow cover, allowing snow mold to become established. In some commercial fields near Ashton, snow mold reduced stands by over 90%. Snow mold resistant varieties are reported in the 2017 Small Grains Report Research Bulletin 193, page 132 <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/RES/RES193.pdf>. The varieties with the highest tolerance to snow mold include Jasper, Elian, Bobtail, Otto and UI Sparrow for the soft white winter varieties and Survivor, Manning, Greenville and UI SRG for the hard red winters.

It doesn't appear that stripe rust has overwintered in southern Idaho - however, there is still time for that to become apparent. Please report incidences of stripe rust and the variety and area of production to Juliet Marshall. Stripe rust pressure in Washington is less than that from last year and has been found at low levels throughout eastern Washington (as reported May 9, 2019 by Dr. Xianming Chen, USDA ARS Pullman, WA). Oregon is seeing stripe rust in Western Oregon (Corvallis area) and through Hermiston. I have heard no reports of stripe rust in southeastern, OR, but as usual, there is stripe rust in Northern California which appears to be at higher levels than 2018. (Claudia Carter California Wheat Commission and Dr. Mark Lundy, UC Davis). The concern is that high levels of spore production occurring downwind of our production area may serve as inoculum for spring grains in southern Idaho.

Rhizoctonia has been found in high levels in some production fields in Eastern Idaho in grain following grain. Winter wheat fields have shown high levels of symptoms where green bridge conditions occurred and will cause substantial yield loss.

Spring wheat planting is continuing in upper elevation areas and is later than in several previous years. A cool, wet spring has delayed planting by a couple of weeks in certain locations. Other locations were planted relatively earlier, like the Idaho Falls area where spring planting was completed earlier than Aberdeen and American Falls areas.

For reporting of disease incidences and questions regarding production of cereals, please call Dr. Juliet Marshall at 208-529-8376 or email jmarshall@uidaho.edu.

Herbicide Update – early season weed management, volunteer alfalfa control in potatoes, and industry news

Pamela J.S. Hutchinson, UI Potato Cropping Systems Weed Scientist

For early season weed management in potatoes, we talked about at least two different approaches:

Scenario 1: Plant – drag off - potato emergence – hilling – herbicide application.

- Tillage after herbicide application breaks the herbicide barrier – brings up untreated soil., therefore, application should occur after the last tillage operation = hilling.
- Only herbicides which can safely be applied postemergence to the potatoes can be used.
- The field is leveled after hilling (drag-off) for reasons including relatively fast emergence, especially in cold soils, compared with emergence from below a hill which has been built after planting but before potato emergence.
- Unless GPS is set up for the field, hilling must be conducted after potato emergence when the potato rows are visible.

Scenario 2: Plant – hill – herbicide application – potato emergence.

- The last tillage operation is the hilling before potato emergence.
- In this Scenario, more herbicide choices are available – now herbicides which have soil activity but must be applied before potato emergence can be used.
- Herbicides must be either chemigated or sprinkler-incorporated with overhead irrigation water to be present in the weed-seed germination zone.

A postemergence herbicide application may be needed in Scenario 2, and a second may be needed in Scenario 2.

Always read and follow the herbicide labels.

For more specific information including herbicide recommendations, refer to Potato Progress newsletter Volume 19, Number 3; you can download the PDF [here](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/72048200a2c6ad5698e20f133/files/133bd67b-27e5-49f5-8af7-078e0690520b/PotatoProgress_Vol_19_No_3.pdf) or copying and pasting the link (https://gallery.mailchimp.com/72048200a2c6ad5698e20f133/files/133bd67b-27e5-49f5-8af7-078e0690520b/PotatoProgress_Vol_19_No_3.pdf)

Volunteer alfalfa control in potatoes was also discussed: Matrix + surfactants such as methylated seed oil (MSO) + ammonium sulfate (AMS).

Britt Beene, Territory Manager, Corteva Agriscience was present and mentioned that Corteva and DowDuPont would now be three separate entities. Corteva will be entirely dedicated to ag chemicals (legacy Dow and DuPont ag products) and include Pioneer seeds. Dow will make commodity chemicals such as polyethylene and silicone. DuPont will produce specialty chemicals such as plastics and adhesives. Neither Dow nor DuPont will be involved in ag chemicals.

Potato Update – soft rot, spore traps, and aphid monitoring

Kasia Duellman, UI Seed Potato Specialist

Early season disease issues. There have been a few reports of problems with soft rot in southern and southeast Idaho, and several samples have been received by the UI Extension Seed Potato lab in Idaho Falls. These issues appear to be due primarily to planting into cold wet soils earlier in the growing season.

Spore trap network. The UI Spore Trap Network will resume monitoring airborne plant pathogens. Results of the airborne spores captured by spore traps across southern Idaho will be reported weekly, beginning in June. This network is a remarkable collaboration between the University of Idaho and industry.

Aphid monitoring. In recent years, the Idaho Crop Improvement Association has been monitoring aphid numbers at selected sites in seed growing areas. This year, in cooperation with University of Idaho and with funding provided by the Idaho Potato Commission, we will expand the monitoring network by adding yellow bucket traps to sites in the seed growing areas and to all sites that have a spore trap. In addition to counting the total number of aphids at each site, we will work towards identifying species at selected sites in 2019 with the intent of expanding identification at additional sites in 2020. We will determine whether collected aphids are carrying Potato virus Y via molecular tests developed by Dr. James Woodhall (UI Plant Pathologist, Parma REC). Presence of other pests will also be determined using selected molecular assays in the Woodhall lab.

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on the findings of the spore trap network and the aphid monitoring network, please send your request to kduellman@uidaho.edu and you will be added to an email list for this purpose.



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Schedule for remaining Ag Talk Tuesday sessions in 2019:

Date	Location	Primary topics (among others)	Hosts
May 21	UI Extension, Twin Falls County, 630 Addison Ave W, Suite 1600 Twin Falls	Psyllid Monitoring Spore Trap Network Potato update	Erik Wenninger Kasia Duellman Pam Hutchinson
June 4	Idaho AgCredit 2883 ID-39 American Falls	Early season potato issues, stand issues Weed issues Small grains disease (FHB and stripe rust) mgmnt	Kasia Duellman Pam Hutchinson Juliet Marshall
June 18	No Ag Talk Tuesday	No Ag Talk Tuesday	
July 2	Idaho AgCredit 1586 North 2 nd East Rexburg	Thrips investigation and Crop Disease updates Potato update Weed update Small grains update	Jon Hogge Kasia Duellman Pam Hutchinson Juliet Marshall
July 16	Bonneville County Fairgrounds, Extension Classroom 7475 S 15 th E Idaho Falls	Bonneville county update Spore trap update Small grains harvest outlook Weed update	Ron Patterson Kasia Duellman Juliet Marshall Pam Hutchinson
August 6	Location TBD Pocatello	Economics/cost of production/markets forecast	Ben Eborn Pam Hutchinson
August 20	Minnidoka County Extension Office (McGregor Center) 85 East Baseline Rd Rupert	Utilizing Barn Owl Boxes to Manage Voles Cover crops Aphid Monitoring, Storage disease issues	Jason Thomas Steve Hines Kasia Duellman Pam Hutchinson