O R E G O N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

POTATO UPDATE

Volume IX, Issue 2

Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center April 24, 2015

2121 South 1st Street, Hermiston, Oregon 97838, T 541-567-8321 | F 541-567-2240 | http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hermiston/

Silvia I. Rondon, Extension Entomologist Specialist ● Ken Frost, Extension Plant Pathologist ●
Robert Cating, Plant Pathology Lab Diagnostician ● Ira Thompson, Bio Science Tech

Calendar of upcoming events

June 8-10 Integrated Pest Management Training. Hermiston, OR. Few spots available.
June 24-26 Integrated Pest Management Training. Colfax, WA. Class full.
June 24 OSU-HAREC Potato Field Day. Field Day starts at 8:30 AM. Hermiston, OR.
June 25 WSU Potato Field Day. Othello, WA.

TRAPS OUT!!!

Welcome to another season!! Samples have been steadily coming to our labs at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center. On the field front, our traps are out. You should be getting our regular report starting next week.

This week we have a student visiting from the University of Wisconsin. Michael Crossley is conducting a large scale Colorado potato beetle (CPB) study trying to learn patterns of resistance. He observed that CPBs are just beginning to emerge from overwintering in fields and field margins. Very low numbers were observed in few potato fields, e.g. from one to ten along the edges of any given field. The majority of adults observed this week were found on volunteer potatoes in wheat fields. While many wheat fields contained no CPBs, some wheat fields contained up to 20 CPBs in isolated patches of volunteer potatoes. Within these patches, it was not uncommon to find a few volunteer potatoes that were heavily defoliated (~50%), and some bearing CPB egg masses already. There was also evidence of predation (bits of CPB exoskeleton strewn around volunteer potatoes), though what is causing this is unknown. The CPBs observed this week are likely early "emergers" and emergence is expected in coming weeks……*Silvia Rondon, Extension Entomologist*

More about volunteer potatoes

Volunteer potatoes are a serious problem not only because they may be competing with crops but also for phytosanitary reasons. Fortunately, winter wheat, a common crop in the Basin, cannot easily be overgrown by volunteer potatoes, less so corn. Mild winters like our last one, did not lessen tuber survival over the winter period, and the number of volunteers could potentially be high.

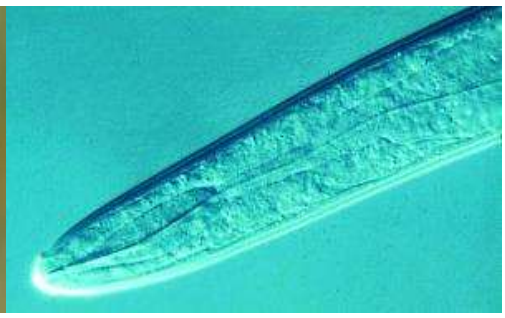
On a recent trip around the area late April, volunteer potatoes were relatively easy to find. Many of them "hosting" already insect pests such as CPB (see picture left above, red circle), aphids and thrips….*Silvia Rondon, Extension Entomologist.*

Gentle reminders

Request for Colorado potato beetle, Lygus, and Stubby root nematode samples

We are requesting help from growers in obtaining samples of CPBs (20 beetles per farm), Lygus (live ones!!!) and Stubby root nematodes from throughout the Columbia Basin.

Any growers and/or field men who are willing to sample from their farm please contact Silvia and/or Ken at 541-567-8321 or silvia.rondon@oregonstate.edu and kenneth.frost@oregonstate.edu, we will send you simple instructions for collecting and materials for shipping…..*Silvia Rondon, Extension Entomologist* Specialist and *Ken Frost, Extension Plant Pathologist*



Early observations from the Extension Plant Pathology Diagnostic Lab

Over the last month, we have not seen many disease problems related to potato coming through the clinic. The diseases that have passed through the clinic have been on potato from storage and have primarily been caused by both, soft (*Pectobacterium* sp.) and dry rot (*Fusarium* sp.) pathogens. In the next update we will explain how to cursorily tell the difference between a soft rot and a dry rot of potato. Of course we

expect that things will pick up in the clinic as the 2015 crop begins to emerge. If you suspect you have a disease problem and would like us to take a look at it, give us a call or visit our website http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hermiston/plant-pathology-plant-lab-testing for a list of services we offer and for instructions about how to submit samples to the diagnostics clinic…*Robert Cating, Plant Disease Diagnostician and Ken Frost, Extension Plant Pathologist*

News about Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said that until studies on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators are complete, it will not approve new uses of those products and urged companies who had applied for EPA registrations to withdraw their applications. Not sure how this will impact potatoes in the future. The list includes imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam and dinotefuran. More information can be found here http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/neonicotinoid-new-use.pdf.