

## POTATO UPDATE

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Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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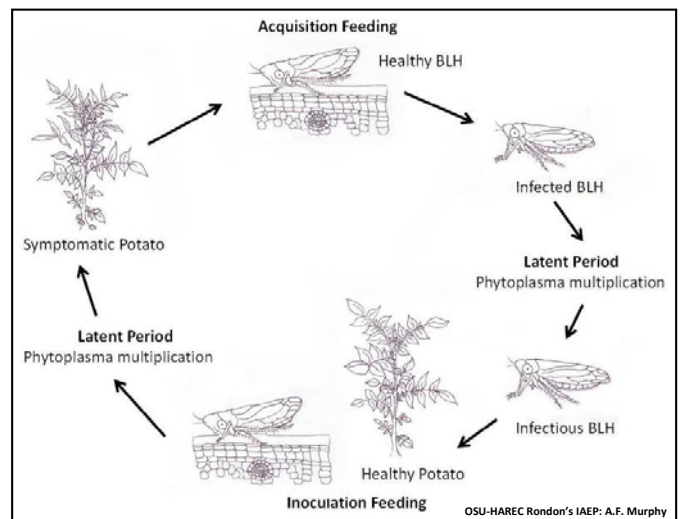
### The Purple Curl of Disease

Potato purple top symptoms have been abundant in the lower Columbia Basin for the last few weeks: purpling, curling and scorching of new foliage. As you may know, these symptoms are associated with several problems, including Beet leafhopper-transmitted virescence agent (Purple top disease, BLTVA) and Zebra Chip (ZC) disease. Many of these plants have been infected with BLTVA, but we encourage you to submit a sample to the Plant Pathology lab if there are numerous purple plants in your fields.

### The BLTVA disease cycle

- Beet leafhopper (BLH) is the vector.
- BLH feeds on weeds (kochia, Russian thistle, etc.).
- Weeds are infected with BLTVA.
- BLH moves into potatoes, transmitting BLTVA.
- It takes up to 30 days for purple top symptoms to develop.

The beet leafhopper is a major vector. If you're having a hard time identifying BLH, use the key characteristics described below:



Feature	Yes - BLH	No - Not BLH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smooth, boomerang- shaped head</b></li> <li>• <b>No black spots or speckles on the head</b></li> <li>• <b>Solid color: either yellow or a grey-green, but the dark form (top) may be grey with brown mottling on the wings)</b></li> <li>• <b>No distinct bands or stripes on the body</b></li> </ul>		

Your extension agents.....Alex Murphy, Robert Cating, and Silvia Rondon

## Have you seen this new stinky pest?

The Rondon lab recently identified an invasive, new pest: the Elm seed bug! Much like boxelder bugs, these insects may gather on the interiors and exteriors of homes. They are most abundant in and around homes during periods of inclement weather: in the spring and fall, or during hot spells. They do not damage buildings, harm trees or humans. However, they can smell bad and be a big nuisance!

### How do I know it's Elm seed bug?

Elm seed bug resembles a small boxelder bug (about ¼ in long) with much less orange coloration. Instead Elm seed bugs have a rust-colored collar (arrow) that helps separate them from other, similar insects.

### What do to do....

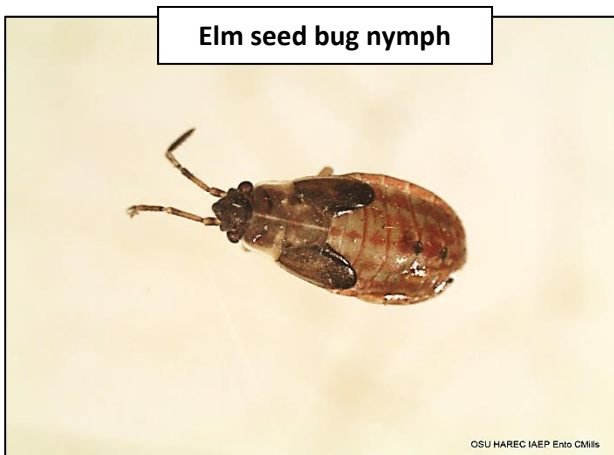
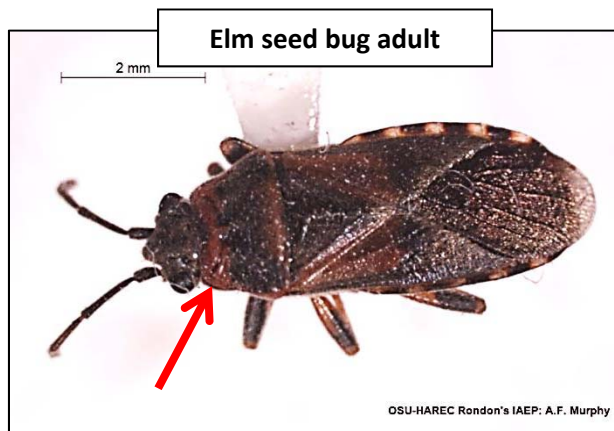
The best way to control these bugs is to avoid a problem by 'bug-proofing' your home. Insecticides are rarely effective.

- Caulk and seal exterior windows/doors
- Patch window screens
- Vacuum up bugs with a shop vac

For more information on managing elm seed bug or 'bug-proofing' your home, please see:

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/malheur/sites/default/files/spring\\_2013\\_esb\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/malheur/sites/default/files/spring_2013_esb_fact_sheet.pdf)

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## Plant Pathology Lab Update

**Late Blight has been confirmed west of Hermiston.** With cooling days and nights, and dew formation now occurring, risk of late blight has increased particularly given the confirmation in Oregon. Continue to scout fields and it may now be appropriate, depending on harvest date and post-harvest storage plans, to make chemical applications. Soon to be harvested fields may not be worth treating unless late blight is confirmed in the field. If green harvested, infection risk is the same but damage risk is reduced if not stored. If tubers are going to be stored, then more precaution is recommended.

Some precaution is warranted regardless, so apply at least one chemical application...EBDC or Chlorothalonil, if the field is two weeks or longer since the last application and maintain at least 2 week intervals until harvest. DON'T OVER WATER. Plants need less water now than a couple of weeks ago. As weather cools and if rain occurs, more frequent applications (weekly) are justified and recommended.

This week 2268 potato psyllids were tested with two additional Lso-positive psyllids found. "Purple top" plants continue to be submitted to the lab for BLTVA and ZC testing. If you have questions about submitting samples for testing, or would like additional information about late blight, give us a call at 541-567-8321.

Robert Cating and Phil Hamm

# OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

**Insect Trap Report**

Area Pest Alert, Umatilla & Morrow Co.

Traps are collected on Thursdays.

TRAP	PTW	BLH	OLH	GPA	PA	OA
1	8	2	4	0	0	1
2	1	0	46	0	0	0
3	7	0	11	0	0	1
4	2	0	2	0	0	1
5	0	3	4	0	0	0
6	0	2	0	0	0	0
7	1	0	7	0	0	0
8	0	1	2	0	0	2
9	3	0	0	0	0	5
10	13	0	1	0	0	43
11	14	1	2	0	2	5
12	0	1	1	0	0	5
13	11	0	2	0	0	0
14	67	0	1	0	0	0
15	0	0	2	5	0	8
16	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	11	0	4	0	0	11
18	6	1	0	0	0	0
19	2	1	0	0	0	0
20	28	1	0	0	0	3
21	7	0	0	0	0	0
22	1	1	1	0	0	1
23	1	1	2	0	0	0
24	32	3	0	0	0	0
25	19	0	4	0	0	0
26	1	0	3	0	0	0
27	2	0	4	0	0	3
28	0	0	2	0	0	0
29	0	0	6	0	0	0
30	1	0	0	0	0	0
31	6	0	0	0	0	0
32	15	0	2	0	0	1
33	8	15	0	0	0	4
34	5	0	1	0	0	2
35A	16	5	0	0	0	0
35B	22	0	0	0	0	0
36A	0	0	1	0	0	0
36B	0	0	0	0	0	1

PTW: Potato Tuberworms  
 BLH: Beet Leafhoppers  
 OLH: Other Leafhoppers

GPA: Green Peach Aphids  
 PA: Potato Aphids  
 OA: Other Aphids

From yellow Alphascents sticky cards in 3 feet, one per field.

TRAP	PP	OP
1	0	1
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	2
5	5	0
6	0	0
7	1	0
8	2	3
9	8	0
10	3	1
11	-	-
12	-	-
13	1	0
14	0	0
15	1	0
16	2	0
17	-	-
18	-	-
19	-	-
20	-	-
21	2	0
22	0	0
23	0	0
24	0	0
25	1	0
26	-	-
27	-	-
28	-	-
29	0	0
30	3	0
31	0	0
32	3	0
33	0	0
34	1	1
35A	2	0
35B	1	0
36A	0	0
36B	0	0

PP: Potato Psyllids  
 OP: Other Psyllids