



In the Paddock

Pests to watch this month

by Dr. Paul Umina

Weed web moths

WEED web moth (Achyra affinalis) caterpillars have been identified in low numbers in crops west of St. Arnaud, in the Wimmera district of Victoria.



and summer.

Some leaf chewing damage was evident in one canola crop and one faba bean crop, however the numbers of caterpillars were quite low and control is not required.

Weed web moth caterpillars are grey-green and pale brown in colour, with a distinctive black head and grow up to 15 mm long.

Caterpillars feed on broad-leaved weeds and a range of crops including canola, lucerne and several pulses.

They tend to wriggle violently or crawl around rapidly when disturbed.

Weed web moths are usually most abundant in warmer weather and populations can build up where there is an abundance of green plant material over spring

We have not previously received any reports of this species causing serious damage to grain pods in canola or pulse crops in spring.

Etiella

Lentil growers should start preparing for potential spring pests, particularly Etiella (Etiella behrii), also known as the lucerne seed web moth.

Etiella is a sporadic but serious pest of lentils in southern Australia, and can cause yield losses and damage grain if not controlled.

Newly hatched larvae bore into immature pods within 24 hours of hatching to begin feeding on developing grain.

Once inside the pods, larvae are protected from

insecticide applications so sprays must target adult moths before egg lay commences.

Etiella also attack lucerne and occasionally clover, peas and lupins.

Etiella degree-day model

The Etiella degree-day model predicts the peak Etiella moth flight period based on local temperatures and this can be used as a guide for when to commence monitoring.

Daily minimum and maximum temperatures for a specific location need to be entered from June 21st onwards.

The date when the cumulative total of degree-days first reaches 351 is the date to commence crop monitoring.

No further temperatures need to be recorded after a value of 351 has been reached.

As of 7th August, the cumulative degree-days at some locations are: Horsham (VIC) - 113; Bendigo (VIC) - 93; and Wagga Wagga (NSW) - 115.

Etiella moths are 10-15 mm long, slender, grey-brown in colour and have a prominent beak.

The forewings have a distinct white stripe

running the full length along the front edge.

Larvae are cream-pale green in colour with several pink-red stripes running along the back.

They have a red-brown coloured head and grow up to 15 mm long.

Female moths lay their eggs under the calyx or on the pod surface, and these hatch in 4-7 days depending on temperature.

Sweep netting is a common method used for estimating Etiella moth numbers in crops.

Lentil crops should be sampled at least once a week during podding for evidence of Etiella activity.

A minimum of 3 groups of 20 sweeps should be randomly undertaken within each crop.

Recommended action thresholds are 1-2 Etiella moths in 20 sweeps.

Pheromone traps and light traps are also useful monitoring techniques. Esfenvalerate, a synthetic pyrethroid, is registered for controlling Etiella in lentil crops in southern Australian states.

Snail Contamination

Growers in areas that

have a history of snail problems should be aware of the risk of snails becoming a grain contaminant at harvest this year.

The next few weeks will be the last window of opportunity for baiting, as all baiting must have ceased by the end of August or two months before harvest.

This is to ensure the bait has broken down and does not become a contaminant of the grain itself.

There is a zero tolerance for bait contamination of grain.

There are four introduced snail species that are pests of grain crops and pastures in southern Australia.

There are two round snails - the vineyard or common white snail (Cernuella virgata) and the white Italian snail (Theba pisana), and two pointed snails - the conical snail (Cochlicella acuta) and the small conical snail (Cochlicella Barbara).

All snails are hermaphrodites, and each snail can lay approximately 400 eggs per year.

If baiting is not conducted in August, the only



Above: White Italian snail



Above: Weed web moth caterpillar

options available to manage snails are to window crops, make header modifications at harvest or to conduct post-harvest grain cleaning.

Monitor

To monitor for snails, check across the whole paddock, paying particular attention to fencelines and adjacent areas such as roadside verges where snails often reinvade paddocks.

If baiting is required be aware that juvenile snails

(round snails less than 7 mm in diameter and conical snails less than 7 mm in length) are much less likely to consume baits than mature snails.

Baiting is most effective if applied to paddocks when there is adequate moisture to stimulate snail activity.

Paddocks should be inspected one week after baiting to check efficacy and assess the need for further baiting.

DPI supports control of Paterson's curse

THE Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is supporting active community groups in North Central Victoria to control Paterson's curse, following concerns that recalcitrant landowners continue to impact on community efforts.

DPI Biosecurity Officer Jessica Seidel said Paterson's curse is of particular concern to community groups in the North Central region.

She said DPI would use its enforcement powers to support groups that have invested significant time and resources into Paterson's curse management.

"The focus will be on areas where groups have identified land owners who have failed to adequately support community projects in preventing the spread of Paterson's curse," Ms Seidel said.

"DPI staff will inspect identified properties within existing community-led project areas and, where required, issue direction notices to control this noxious weed.

"Land owners have a legal responsibility to

manage pest plants and animals on their property to ensure they don't adversely affect agricultural production on neighbouring farms, or impact on the natural environment."

Ms Seidel emphasised that where non-compliance for pest control occurs, penalties can apply.

"Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, landowners are liable for fines of up to \$28,000," she said.

"All members of the local community need to do their bit to help control Paterson's curse - and when this doesn't occur DPI will step in."

For more information about pest plant management visit the DPI website www.dpi.vic.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Elders Weekly Wool Report

— By Glendon Hancock
Week Ending 11 August 2011

BUYERS returned to auction rooms around the country this week after the annual three week recess.

A build-up of receivals into brokers stores during the break resulted in a large offering approaching 60,000 bales.

This was similar in size to the pre-Easter sale, but 10,000 more than for the same selling week last season.

The week began on a poor note with a sharp drop in the wool prices mirroring the falls on global financial markets.

The indicators showed a reduction of around 55 cents while several micron guides showed falls in the 70 to 80 cent bracket.

Wednesday brought Fremantle into the fray just as the market was giving signs of a recovery.

Although no significant gains were made, the plum-

meting prices of the previous day had been arrested.

Thursday saw the slide in prices resume however, particularly towards the end of the day when values fell away.

Skirtings initially made sharp falls (-60A to -80A) before finding solid support on the final two days. Crossbreds were the stand-out performer for the week with a net gain of around 20 cents for the week.

The rise was despite an early drop in prices, with significant gains on both Wednesday and Thursday resulting in the final outcome.

The 59-cent drop in the AWEX-EMI was the largest weekly fall in 10 months. Also showing weakness was the currency with the dollar briefly falling below parity

this week after trading above 110 US cents only eight days earlier.

Seller resistance was reflected in the clearance rate this week; 18.7% of the offering was passed in, the highest rate in 16 months.

Volumes look set to fall over the coming weeks with just under 48,000 bales expected next week.

Melbourne		
Ind.	1268	▼ -58
16.5	-	-
17	2245n	-68
17.5	2090n	-78
18	1859	-95
18.5	1718	-82
19	1588	-77
19.5	1506	-73
20	1429	-69
21	1371	-78
22	1320	-83
23	1222	-65
24	1054n	-43
25	-	-
26	849n	-2
28	696	+28
30	640	+31
32	581n	+15
MC	763	-29

National Offering			
Centre	Week	Days	Offering
Sydney	6	9, 10 August	22,006
Melbourne	6	9, 10 August	28,330
Fremantle	6	10 August	8,195
Total			58,531

Future Offerings			
Week	7	17, 18	47,936
Week	8	17, 18	36,187

Source - AWEX



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