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Alfalfa Caterpillar and Armyworm Monitoring

Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Alfalfa

Grower _____ Date of survey _____

Field location _____ Comments _____

How to monitor

1. Sample weekly until you approach the treatment threshold. Then sample every 2 to 3 days to see if population crashes due to natural enemies and disease.
2. In 4 areas of the field, take five 180° sweeps per area.
3. Identify, count (armyworms: count only those that are at least 0.5 inches), divide by the number of sweeps, and record the number of healthy and parasitized caterpillars.
4. Base your population estimates on the average of all sweeps taken in that field.
5. If cutting is not practical or not scheduled soon after monitoring, treat if:
 - An average of 10 or more nonparasitized **alfalfa caterpillars** per sweep.
 - An average of 15 or more nonparasitized **armyworms** per sweep.
6. Sample and treat field margins (first 50-100 feet) separately.

Area	Healthy alfalfa caterpillars	Parasitized alfalfa caterpillars	Healthy armyworms	Parasitized armyworms
1				
2				
3				
4				
Total caterpillars:				
Average number of healthy caterpillars per sweep = Total number / total sweeps				
If cutting is not practical or not scheduled soon after monitoring, treat for:	Average of 10 or more non-parasitized caterpillars		Average of 15 or more non-parasitized caterpillars	