

EMERGING PEST TO BE AWARE OF FOR 2017

Can we return to the days when insect and disease problems were a minor annoyance and not the destructive and volatile problems they have become? Producers in the Stony Plain area should be prepared to watch for Pea Leaf Weevil damage this spring in both Field pea and Faba bean crops.

Pea Leaf Weevils overwinter as Adults in soil within or adjacent to alfalfa crops and disperse in the spring when the temperature reaches 17°C. Females lay eggs throughout the summer and upon hatching, larvae move to nodules and feed. Yield losses occur due to the larval feeding stage as it inhibits the plants ability to receive nitrogen resulting in low yields.



Pea Leaf weevil Adult with eggs photo credit Mike Dolinski, mikedolinski@hotmail.com

In order to prevent nodule feeding by larvae we must scout early in the season. Once eggs are laid, it is too late to prevent the damage, thus Adults must



Pea Leaf weevil larvae – photo credit Mike Dolinski, mikedolinski@hotmail.com

be removed prior to egg laying.

Scout in the spring once day time temperatures reach 15 to 17°C and look for notches on the clam leaves of the plant. If 30% of the seedlings receive notching on the clam leaves before the 5th node stage, spraying is recommended. NOTE: If the lower



Pea Leaf Weevil notches – photo credit Mike Dolinski, mikedolinski@hotmail.com

leaves are notched, it may already be too late to spray as adults have likely laid eggs.

Several ground beetles, rove beetles and other enemies prey on the eggs and may reduce the potential damage.

One may be able to spray the field margins to help prevent dispersal throughout the field, but constant monitoring would be necessary.

If you seed peas onto land with sufficient nitrogen, yield losses would not occur.

Matador at specified rates should control adults, but spray timing is critical. Early morning spraying prior to the heat of the day is most effective for Matador. Also remember no more than 3 applications can be made per season and that the straw cannot be used for cattle feed.

Scout early and often this spring and avoid yield losses to this newly emerging pest in the Capitol region.