

Brief Forage Update

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Although a few producers are experiencing a slight reprieve from severe fall armyworm abundance, others are still battling populations well above treatment threshold. In addition, producers are beginning to plant or think about planting winter annual grasses. I personally know of at least two food plot plantings that were eliminated by fall armyworms. Emerging grasses are particularly vulnerable to fall armyworm damage which can result in a stand loss. When planting winter annuals, please ramp up your fall armyworm scouting routine before the anticipated emergence date. Also, keep in mind which products provide residual activity and remember that the grass needs to be up and growing for a translaminar or systemic product to provide residual control. The fall armyworm threat is not over; we can potentially experience damaging populations into the fall.



Fall armyworms collected on August 27, 2021 in Greene Co. AR

Last week I visited some bermudagrass hayfields with fairly significant bermudagrass stem maggot damage. Please remember that the best time to treat for bermudagrass stem maggots is seven to ten days after cutting. This will control the adults before they lay eggs. Producers that are preparing to cut their bermudagrass now and expect one more cutting should scout their fields for bermudagrass stem maggot damage as well as the flies. Pyrethroids labeled for pasture use are effective in controlling the flies.

I've noticed more use of chlorantraniliprole for fall armyworms this year than during previous infestations. Some producers have switched to it because of its better residual activity. Prevathon® (chlorantraniliprole) is in short supply in many regions of Arkansas and producers have been told that it has been discontinued. And yes, Prevathon® has been discontinued (although limited quantities of existing stock may be available), however another FMC product containing the same active ingredient (chlorantraniliprole) is available. This "replacement" chlorantraniliprole is called Vantacor™. Vantacor™ is much more concentrated (5.0 pounds chlorantraniliprole per gallon) than Prevathon (0.43 pounds chlorantraniliprole per gallon). Vantacor™ is usually sold in quart bottles versus the 2.5 gallon jugs for Prevathon®. You probably remember that Prevathon® labelling includes a 2(EE) recommendation for a reduced application rate for control of fall armyworms in bermudagrass and other pasture grasses. Vantacor™ labelling also includes a 2(EE) recommendation for a reduced application rate for control of fall armyworms in bermudagrass and other pasture grasses. The 2 (EE) recommended rate for Vantacor™ is 0.9 to 1.1 ounces product per acre. The Vantacor™ 0.9 ounce/acre rate is equivalent to the 10 ounces/acre rate that we have been recommending for Prevathon®. Besiege® also contains chlorantraniliprole along with lambda-cyhalothrin and would provide residual fall armyworm control as well as control of adult bermudagrass stem maggots.

Local availability of the IGRs, Intrepid® and Dimilin® is reduced in some areas of the state. With this in mind, generic diflubenzuron (Dimilin®) formulations are options to mix with pyrethroids. Unforgiven™ and Cavalier™ are two examples that I have found in Arkansas. Generic methoxyfenozide (Intrepid 2F®) are available as TurnStyle™ and Troubadour™. Remember that methoxyfenozide can be used as a stand-alone product for fall armyworm control, but neither methoxyfenozide nor diflubenzuron provide bermudagrass stem maggot control.