

Montana Small Grain Insects

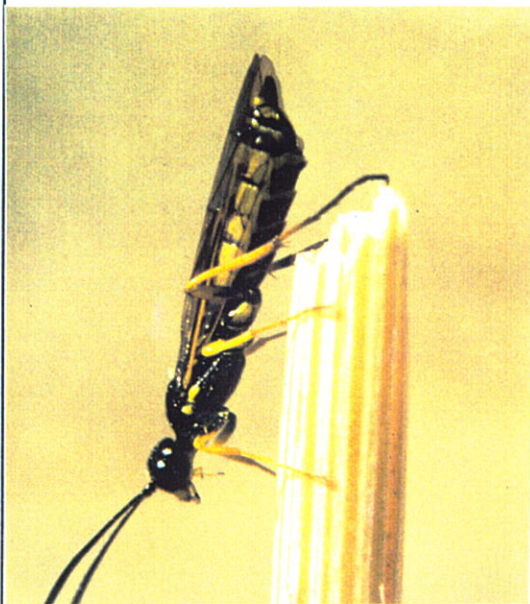
Wheat Stem Sawfly

Cephus cinctus Norton (Hymenoptera: Cephidae)

The wheat stem sawfly was first found in native grasses, and now is one of the most destructive insect pests of wheat in Montana. It causes lodging and reduced yields.

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Wasps emerge from infested stubble in late May or early July. They are about 1/2 long.



Larvae overwinter underground in stubble and change to pupae in the spring 1-2 weeks before wasps appear.



Control Strategies:

- *Plant solid-stemmed spring wheat varieties such as Lew, Glenman, or Fortuna. Also, Rambo and Amidon semi-solid spring wheat varieties are available. Vanguard is a new solid-stemmed winter wheat.
- *Till infested stubble in the fall to expose larvae on the soil surface. Covering infested stubs with soil is not effective.
- *Wasps can be killed with insecticides, but treatments must be applied before eggs are laid and residue must last long enough to kill all wasps that are moving into fields.
- *Crop rotation that includes non-host plants such as alfalfa, canola, or other non-grassy plants would be useful.