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.

CAPSULE INFORMATION SERIES NUMBER 35, REVISED 1995

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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.**

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**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.*

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