

Montana Small Grain Insects

Wheat Stem Sawfly

Cephus cinctus Norton (Hymenoptera: Cephidae)

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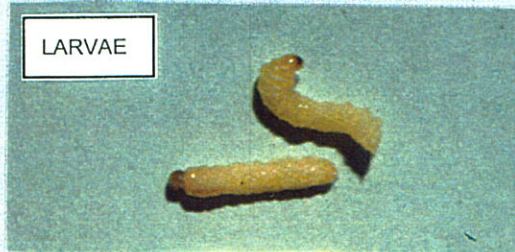
Wendell Morrill and David Weaver, Department of Entomology

Montana State University-Bozeman 59717

The wheat stem sawfly attacks wheat and wild grasses in the northern Great Plains. Infested plants usually lodge, making crops difficult to harvest. Larval feeding also reduces yields by about 10%. This pest is very difficult to control with current management practices.

OVERWINTERING

Sawfly larvae overwinter in cut "stubs". Tunnels in the stubs have a silken lining, and extend below ground down to the crowns. Tops of the stubs are cleanly cut, and are filled with a soft plug. The larvae assume an "S" shape when removed from the stub.



PUPAE



Larvae become pupae in the spring. At first, pupae are white, but dark eyes and black adult bodies soon appear. The adult wasps chew through the plugs and emerge from the stubs about 2 weeks later. Wasp emergence can be "triggered" by rain, or delayed by cold weather.

