

MONTANA SMALL GRAIN INSECTS

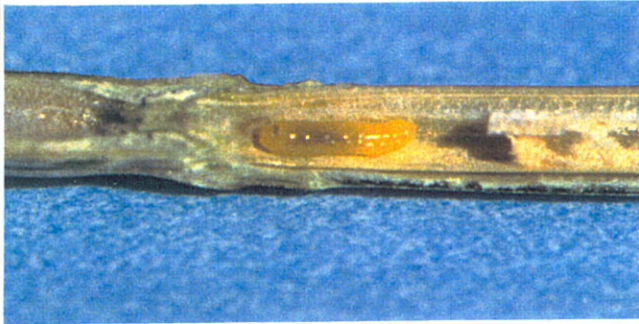
Wheat Strawworm

Tetramesa grandis (Riley) Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae

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The wheat strawworm has been a pest of wheat for many years. Infestations are easy to overlook. Infestations are enhanced by minimum tillage practices. There is no information available on the economic impact on wheat in Montana. The pest recently appeared in the Molt area where infestation levels reached 80% in one field.



Strawworm larva in stem- Larvae feed in wheat stems. They do not bore through nodes. There may be more than one larva per stem. There are two generations per year. Seedlings and young tillers may be killed by larvae from the first generation. Grain yield and quality are reduced by the second generation larvae.

Strawworm larva- Strawworm larvae may be confused with sawfly larvae. However, strawworms have yellow head capsules and are smaller than sawflies. Strawworms do not cut stems. Larvae overwinter in straw or stubble. The strawworm could easily be spread by transportation of infested straw.



not s-shaped (sawfly is s-sh.)
Blunt head. (sawfly more pointed.)



Wasp- Strawworm adults are small black wasps. Wasps from the first generation are wingless but those from the second generation have wings. Therefore, there is limited dispersal from infested stubble to crops in the spring. It is not known if solid stemmed cultivars are strawworm resistant.