

# [Blue] alfalfa aphid management

Ian Grettenberger and Rob Wilson

- Blue alfalfa aphid has been problematic in the Intermountain region in alfalfa.
- Heavily infested alfalfa can stunt stems and plants and turn leaves necrotic due to their toxic saliva, hampering yields
- Aphids have colonized alfalfa just breaking dormancy in recent years, complicating management.



## Management with insecticides

- The look-alike aphid species the pea aphid has different susceptibility to insecticides (see pyrethroids), emphasizing the importance of proper identification (check those antennae! See UCIPM for ID guide).
- We conducted a trial to evaluate different materials, including registered and unregistered materials when applied to alfalfa just breaking dormancy (3-5 in. at application). Most aphids were blue alfalfa aphid.
- Overall, a number of the newer, “selective”, materials performed very well, suppressing aphids through 21 DAT. By 28 DAT, aphid populations were low across the board (% of untreated is presented).
- Several broad spectrum materials did not suppress aphids and spiked populations at 21 DAT, likely due to disruption of natural enemies, which has been shown in previous trials.

Trt #	Product	Rate	Unit
1	Endigo ZCX	4.5	fl oz/ac
2	Dimethoate 4EC+Warrior II	16+1.92	fl oz/ac + fl oz/ac
3	Warrior II	1.92	fl oz/ac
4	* Transform WG	1	oz/ac
5	Sefina	6	fl oz/ac
6	Sefina	10	fl oz/ac
7	* PQZ	2.4	fl oz/ac
8	Sivanto 200SL	7	fl oz/ac
9	Sivanto 200SL	10	fl oz/ac
10	† Beleaf 50SG	2.8	oz/ac
11	Untreated	-	-

Note: \* indicate unregistered treatments, while † indicates a 62 day PHI

