

Hello everyone,

Wheat Midge in very low numbers were found on pheromone traps in the Rolla area and could be present throughout the BC Peace. Despite attempts by researchers to devise other methods of determining action thresholds, the only verified reliable way of making proper control decisions in your fields is by visual inspection, ideally done as follows:

1. Check each wheat field after 8:30 pm to dusk, when the wind is low and it is fairly warm (above 15°C). Check in at least 3 different spots per field, including the edge and any low, moist spots which may favour the midge's development.
2. The midge is orange and very small (see figures below) (~2-3mm long, smaller than a kernel of wheat).
3. Check 4-5 wheat heads for adult midges and if you see 1 or more on that group of heads you may see about a 15% loss of yield. This is usually the recommended action threshold. Be sure to take crop prices and spray costs into account before applying control and **be sure to check multiple spots in the field- an edge pass may be enough.**



1 Wheat Midge adult (courtesy SaskAg)



2 Lauxanid Fly (left), Wheat Midge(right) (Courtesy ABAG)

Important Considerations:

-**Wheat midge adults only lay eggs for 4-7 days** so it is important to control only when its flight coincides with the susceptible stage of wheat. This is from head emergence up to flowering/anther formation. **Once anthers appear, you don't need to scout anymore or worry about control**, unless you are growing Glenlea wheat which remains susceptible throughout flowering.

For more information please visit:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex2507](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex2507)

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/wheatmidgeFAQ>

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/wheatmidge.htm>

I encourage growers to contact me with questions anytime. I can be reached by:

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