

2014 Pasture Insect Control Recommendations

When to Treat

Armyworms: Treatment should be considered when populations exceed three to four larvae per square foot. If fields are ready or near ready for cutting, harvesting is suggested rather than applying insecticide.

Grasshoppers: Treatment thresholds have not been established.

Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: This invasive fly has recently become established in Tennessee. The larval (maggot) stage feeds within Bermudagrass stems, causing shoot tips to turn light brown or white, giving infested fields a frosted appearance. Infestations are typically worse later in the summer. Infested fields should be harvested if they are within seven days of the normal harvest stage. Heavily infested fields should be harvested earlier, and any baled grass should be removed. Current recommendations are to treat infested, recently harvested field with a foliar-applied insecticide within a few days after the previous harvest. A second application five to seven days later may be justified in cases of severe infestations. Relatively low rates of pyrethroid insecticides will provide effective control of adults, helping to prevent reinfestation.

| Suggestions for Chemical Control of Pasture Insects | | | |
|---|---|---------------|---|
| Insects | Insecticide (Trade Names) | Rate per Acre | Restrictions/Comments* |
| Armyworms or Grasshoppers | carbaryl (Sevin XLR Plus 4) | 32 - 48 oz | Must remove cattle. Do not apply within 14 days of harvest or grazing. Other Sevin formulations are also available. |
| Armyworms | chlorantraniliprole (Prevathon 0.43 SC) | 10 - 13 oz | 0 day application restriction for forage or hay. |
| Armyworms, Bermudagrass Stem Maggot, Grasshoppers | chlorantraniliprole, λ -cyhalothrin (Besiege, premix) | 6 - 10 oz | 0 day application restriction for forage or hay. |
| Grasshoppers | diflubenzuron (Dimilin 2L) | 2 oz | Allow 1 day after treatment before cutting for hay. Apply when grasshoppers are small. |
| Armyworms or Grasshoppers | malathion (malathion 57E) | 32 oz | Must remove cattle. Allow spray to dry before harvest or grazing. |
| Armyworms | methomyl (Lannate 2.4LV) | 12 - 24 oz | Bermudagrass only. Must remove cattle. Do not apply within 3 days of harvest or 7 days of grazing. |
| Armyworms | methoxyfenozide (Intrepid 2F) | 4 - 8 oz | Do not apply within 7 days of harvest; 0 day application restriction for grazing. |
| Armyworms or Grasshoppers | methyl parathion (Methyl 4E) | 24 oz | Must remove cattle. Do not apply within 15 days of harvest or grazing. |
| Armyworms | spinosad (Tracer 4F) | 1 - 2 oz | Do not apply within 3 days of harvest; 0 day restriction for grazing. |

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|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Armyworms, Bermudagrass Stem Maggot, Grasshoppers | β -cyfluthrin (Baythroid XL 1) | 1.6 - 1.9 oz, 1.9 oz | Do not apply within 7 days of harvest; 0 day application restriction for grazing. |
| Armyworms, Bermudagrass Stem Maggot, Grasshoppers | λ -cyhalothrin (Karate 2.08, Warrior II) | 1.3 - 1.9 oz | Do not apply within 7 days of harvest; 0 day restriction for grazing. |
| Armyworms, Bermudagrass Stem Maggot, Grasshoppers | Z-cypermethrin (Mustang Max 0.8) | 2.8 - 4 oz | 0 day application restriction for forage or hay. |

* See insecticide labels for complete list of pests controlled, restrictions and comments.