



# HatchTrak<sup>SM</sup>

June 14, 2005

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### Corn Rootworm

Most of the area is well into corn rootworm hatch by this date. The exception is the Panhandle region of NE and some areas of the front range in CO. Most of those areas should expect rootworm to begin hatching around June 15-20th. Rootworm hatch begins when about 600-650 GDD's (base 50) have accumulated. Most of the previously mentioned areas were still around 450-500 GDD's as of last week. Growers wanting to apply Furadan 4F as a planted post treatment should begin treating fields after June 20th in those areas to catch the peak hatch for rootworm. Furadan needs to be activated with rainfall or irrigation after application. A 0.5" of overhead irrigation is recommended to move the Furadan into the soil profile. Growers also need to keep the soil moist during the feeding period to maximize insecticide activity and control.

In eastern and southern areas, growers should monitor fields for rootworm feeding as the rootworm should be growing into 2nd and 3rd instars in the coming weeks and damage will increase. Rescue applications for at-plant insecticides, seed treatments, or GMO corn should occur over the next 2 weeks in these areas. Once we get through the end of June, the larva will begin to pupate, feeding will cease, and adult beetles will emerge in July.

### Maximizing Alfalfa Production

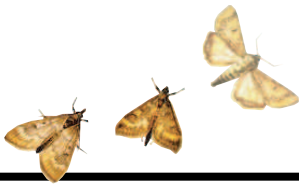
With all the rainfall, most growers are busy trying to catch up on spraying corn, beans, pastures, cultivating, fertilizer applications, or baling hay. Many times, the alfalfa plant health is neglected this time of year. Most times it seems growers are just happy to get this cutting put up before the next cutting is growing too tall. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cuttings are usually the best alfalfa and command the highest prices of the season. Growers wanting to maximize the return from those cuttings look to minimize stress and improve yields. Over the last 3 years, FMC has been conducting on-farm large-plot trials that demonstrate that applying Mustang Max at 2.5-3.5 oz to 2nd-4th cutting alfalfa when it is about 3-6" tall controls the multiple insect species that reduce alfalfa yield and forage quality during the summer. Potato leafhopper has showed up in most alfalfa fields in eastern NE, KS over the last 2 weeks. This insect injects a toxin in the leaf that breaks down proteins and causes stunting. The result is reduced protein levels and lower forage yields in alfalfa. Because of this, thresholds for this insect are only 2 leafhoppers / 10 sweeps of a net on 1-4" tall hay. On 5-8" tall alfalfa, the threshold is only 3 leafhoppers in 10 sweeps. Other insects that are present like plant bugs, stinkbugs, variegated cutworms, armyworms all contribute to alfalfa stress and lower yields. The on-farm research since 2002 has shown increases in yield of nearly 10% as well increases in protein of 3-4 percentage points and increases in RFV of 5-20 points. A planned approach to managing insects in alfalfa can be combined with a foliar feed fertilizer to give the alfalfa an additional boost from a single application. With all the rain-damaged 1st cutting this year, the 2nd-4th cuttings will be the most valuable. Maximize the production by

• protecting the alfalfa's potential during the rest of the year. • [www.fmc.com](http://www.fmc.com)



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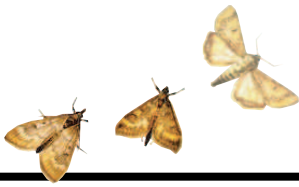
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## Potato leafhopper adult and nymph. Potato leafhopper damage on left, treated on right.





## Aim Update

With all the heavy rains since early May, some of the planting time treatments in **corn** may be breaking. The inability to get across all the fields with early post treatments in showing up with some fields needing a late-post rescue for weeds like Velvetleaf, waterhemp, lambsquarter, pigweed, and nightshade and morningglories are starting to come as the weather warms up. Aim is a great, inexpensive option for late post applications. It controls all these weeds and can be applied up to V8 broadcast and up to V14 with drop nozzles. If the velvetleaf, or pigweeds are getting too big, adding Aim in a tank-mix with Hornet, Callisto, Accent, Permit, Option, or glyphosate is a great way to make sure those weeds are killed and not just injured some. Competition from weeds is taking away yield potential every day they are left to keep growing or die slowly. Aim's fast activity takes out those weeds in 3-4 days instead of 2 weeks like many other products.

**Sorghum** applications are beginning in Kansas and Nebraska in the coming weeks. Aim is a safe way to control weeds in sorghum. Univ. of NE studies over 3 years showed a 10-12 bu yield advantage with Aim treatments compared to a weed free check. Use Aim at 0.5 oz with Atrazine at 0.5-1.0 lb with 6-8 oz of 2,4-D or 4 oz of dicamba for a inexpensive, broadspectrum program on velvetleaf, pigweeds, lambsquarter, kochia, Russian thistle. Other tankmixes include Aim + Peak 0.5 oz, Aim + Permit 0.67 oz. These programs work well where cocklebur, sunflower, devilsclaw are needing to be controlled. Aim will cause some leaf burning on sorghum, but as indicated above, this does not cause any yield loss. To minimize crop response, use only NIS as the adjuvant and avoid applications when foliage is wet from rain or dew.

**Soybeans** have an expanded label for 2005. Applications are allowed from V3-V10 stages in soybeans. Add 0.25 oz to your glyphosate program to improve velvetleaf and morningglory control. Here again, avoid Aim applications to soybeans when foliage is wet from dew or rain or during very cool, overcast conditions to minimize potential leaf response on soybeans. Research in Illinois the last several years has shown that applications of a cell membrane disrupter herbicide can result yield increases in some cases.

With **Wheat** ready for harvest in Kansas and Oklahoma, the heavy rainfall may result in some delayed harvest and result in some large weeds. **Aim is now labeled as a harvest aid for small grains.** Aim may be applied to 1.98 oz with a 3 day preharvest restriction. Good coverage is essential to maximize the dessication of weeds so 5 GPA by air is recommended and 20 GPA by ground. Use a COC or MSO type adjuvant at 1% v/v to increase the activity as much as possible.

**Aim - Millet:** As millet crops are being planted, now is the time to plan post applications on those crops. Aim is now labeled for all the forage and grain millets. Aim 0.5 oz + 2,4-D amine 0.75-1.0 pint or a 3-way combo of Aim + 0.5-0.75 pint + 4 oz of dicamba are excellent combinations for broadspectrum weed control in millet. Aim is labeled for application up through the jointing stage on all the small grains including the millet crops. Growers and retailers who used Aim on millet in 2004 reported excellent results and Aim is safe to the crop as well.