

July 2016

PROTECT NEW ALFALFA FROM GRASSHOPPERS

August plantings of alfalfa work great, especially when you have moisture. But few things are more frustrating or costly than having nice, new alfalfa seedlings eaten up by grasshoppers.

So do something about it. Begin by scouting for grasshoppers. If you find more than 2 or 3 grasshoppers per square yard out in the field to be planted or more than 10 grasshoppers per square yard in field margins, treatment with insecticides probably will be beneficial.

Treat field margins before new alfalfa seedlings begin to emerge to head off potential invasions. If many grasshoppers are getting large, use the highest rate allowed on the label.

Also be sure to carefully read and follow all label directions. For example, you might want to treat both the field and field margins. However, while many pyrethroid insecticides like Baythroid, Declare, Renounce, Tombstone, Warrior, and Mustang as well as Lorsban, Imidan, Nufos, and Paradigm are labeled for controlling grasshoppers in alfalfa, some are not labeled for use on the field margin. Be sure to check before spraying.

Whenever using any insecticides, please be especially careful to avoid injuring bee and other important pollinating insects. Some precautions you can take to protect bees include time of day when spraying, using less toxic insecticides, and avoiding areas with blooming plants.

This could be a really good time to start a new alfalfa field. Protect that investment with proper grasshopper control.

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