

NEW TOOLS FOR PEA LEAF WEEVIL MANAGEMENT

Should you get your pea and faba bean seed treated to protect you against pea leaf weevil? Thanks to an important advance by University of Alberta entomologist Dr. Maya Evenden, we're getting much closer to having a reliable predictive tool for this pest.

Starting in 2014, Evenden developed and tested a pheromone-baited trap that attracts and traps pea leaf weevils as they enter fields in the spring or leave in the fall to overwinter. Significant fall numbers would suggest populations will be strong the following spring. If so, book that seed treatment. Otherwise, go without the seed treatment and save some money.

This trap, combined with traditional monitoring for notch damage on plants, will give a clearer picture of expected pea leaf weevil populations. Evenden used these traps to document the spread of pea leaf weevil from its accustomed place in southern Alberta, up to the Peace River region and in the Lloydminster and St. Paul areas.

Seed treatment might not be the only pea leaf weevil control for long. As part of Evenden's research, she often found a predatory ground beetle captured in the traps.

Evenden explained: "Ongoing work in my laboratory will determine if this species can be an effective biological control agent of the pea leaf weevil."

SCOUTING CALENDAR FOR INSECT PESTS OF FIELD PEA

	APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
	EARLY	LATE	EARLY	LATE	EARLY	LATE	EARLY	LATE	EARLY	LATE		
GROWTH STAGE			EMERGENCE									
				VEGETATIVE								
						FLOWERING						
								POD GROWTH				
									SEED FILL			
										MATURITY		
INSECT PESTS			WIREWORM									
				CUTWORM								
					PEA LEAF WEEVIL							
						PEA APHID						
								GRASSHOPPER				