

August 29, 2019

Mint Pest Alert Newsletter

- Willamette Valley -

Time to Sample for MRB Larvae

Late Aug/early Sep is the time to scout for Mint Root Borer (MRB) larvae in the soil if fall control is being considered (i.e. Lorsban, Mocap, nematodes). MRB larvae drop from the foliage to the ground in August and tunnel into rhizomes, where they will feed into the fall.

Larvae are generally too small to see in August, while sampling in late September is too late as damage is done.

Control treatments must be applied before larvae form hibernacula (overwintering, soil-based cocoons). Based on the insect development model, hibernacula formation should be about 5% by Aug 30th, and will reach 50% by Sept 18th.



Oregon State University
Extension Service

Questions? Contact Will Jessie:
JessieW@oregonstate.edu
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Mint Root Borer (MRB) Insect Development - Corvallis

- ✧ 5% hibernaculum formation predicted for Aug 30th
- ✧ 50% hibernaculum formation predicted for Sep 18th
 - Start sampling for larvae end of August and early September

Sampling Recommendations for MRB larvae:

- Sample 1ft² of soil to a depth of 2-3" (include rhizomes)
- 2 samples taken every 2-3 acres
- Minimum 25 samples per field
- Screen samples in the field or with Berlese funnels in the laboratory

Treatment threshold = average of 2-3 larvae/ft² sample

For more information:

<http://uspest.org/mint/mrbfact.pdf>

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/agronomic/mint/mint-mint-root-borer>

