

September 11, 2020

# Mint Pest Alert Newsletter

## - Willamette Valley -

### Fall Chemical Management

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, hibernaculum formation began Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, with 50% hibernaculum formation expected by Sep 13<sup>th</sup>.



Oregon State University  
Extension Service

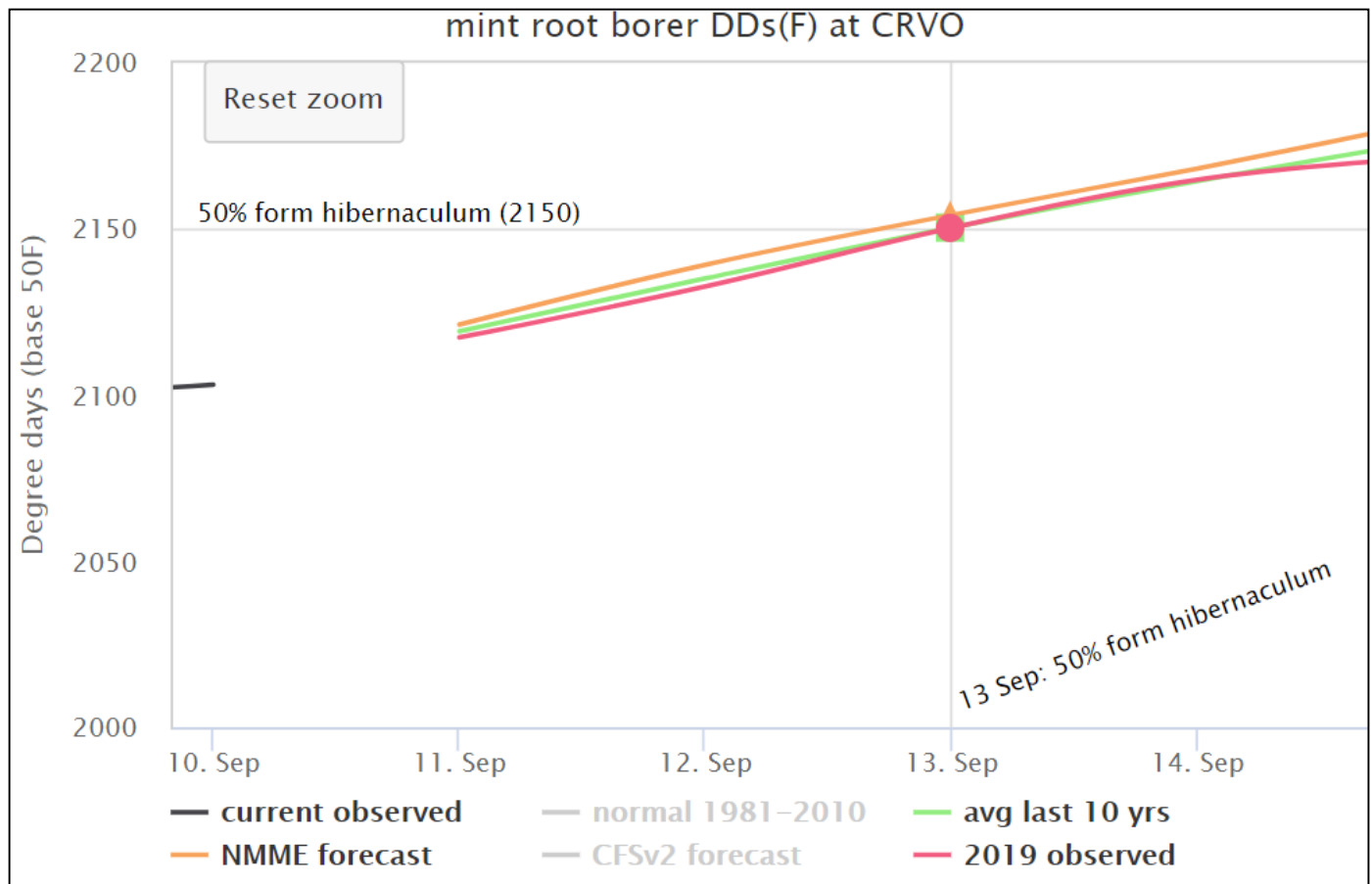
Questions? Contact Navneet Kaur  
[Navneet.kaur@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Navneet.kaur@oregonstate.edu)

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## Mint Root Borer (MRB) Insect Development - Corvallis

✧ 50% hibernaculum formation predicted for Sep 13<sup>th</sup>



### Sampling Recommendations for MRB larvae:

- Sample 1ft<sup>2</sup> 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 recover larvae with Berlese funnel in the laboratory
- ***Treatment threshold = average of 2-3 larvae/ft<sup>2</sup> sample***

For more information: <http://mint.ippc.orst.edu/mrbfact.pdf>

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





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Larva in rhizome



Hibernaculum

\*Photos courtesy of Ralph Berry & IPP