

August 25, 2023

# 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. 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, 5% hibernacula formation was on August 18, and 50% is expected on September 3.



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service

Questions? Contact  
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## 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 with Berlese funnels in the laboratory

**Treatment threshold = average of 2-3 larvae/ft<sup>2</sup> sample**

### Mint Root Borer Development at Corvallis Weather Station

Accumulated GDDs  
base 50 °F

