



# Pest e-alerts



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## **Army Cutworms Still a Threat in Wheat, Canola, and Alfalfa Fields.**

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Amazing what a month of feeding can do for army cutworms. I wrote an article on Feb 12 reporting army cutworm infestations being reported in parts of Oklahoma by Lanie Hale, Rob Anderson, and Mike Rosen of Wheeler Brothers and Area Extension Agronomist Heath Sanders. Since then, I have received reports from as far as Abilene TX and additional reports from Lanie Hale army cutworms infesting wheat and alfalfa. I even have a photo taken by Jay Lohmann near Alva of a “nest” of army cutworms that congregated in a badger hole.

Unfortunately, these cutworms have had a month to grow, and are now bigger and hungrier. Because of their present size, I recommend a threshold of 2-3 per row foot in wheat. Current recommendations for army cutworm control products in small grains are listed in CR-7194, *Management of Insect and Mite Pests in Small Grains*.

The suggested treatment threshold for cutworms in canola is 1-2 per row-foot. Current recommendations for control products for army cutworms in canola are listed in CR-7667, *Management of Insect and Mite Pests in Canola*.

In newly seeded alfalfa, the threshold is 1-2 larvae per square foot. In established alfalfa fields, the threshold is 2-4 larvae per square foot and should be adjusted based on the size of the caterpillars (2-3 per square foot if caterpillars are more than ½ inches, 3-4 per square foot if less than ½ inches). Current recommendations for control products for army cutworms in alfalfa are listed in CR-7150, *Alfalfa Forage Insect Control*.



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**Co-Editors: Eric Rebek and Justin Talley; Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service**

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