

1. Title:

Durum variety evaluations with a special reference to insect infestations in the Western Triangle area

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3. Objectives:

1. To evaluate the effects of different insect pests on durum variety performance under dryland conditions found in north central Montana.
2. To evaluate the potential fit of other materials, concepts and techniques with various cropping systems employed for cereal crop production.

4. Results:

A survey of the durum wheat variety trial was conducted and stems were analyzed for the wheat stem sawfly larvae. The heads were analyzed for the orange wheat blossom midge larvae and the roots and root crown for wireworm infestations. One foot of row was dug up using a shovel so the whole plant could be brought back to the lab for the analysis of insect pests, in particular to look for the insect larvae by dissecting the plant. We found no damage caused to the durum varieties by any of these pests. We will continue the same monitoring work for these pests during the upcoming growing season.