

# True Armyworm Management and Recognition

The true armyworm (armyworm) can be a serious pest of pastures, hayfields and seed production fields reducing both forage availability, hay yields and seed production. Damage can appear almost overnight and infestations can be easily overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Armyworms are a greater problem during spring, after which time, natural controls usually keep the population below threshold level. Armyworms often feed at night and remain hidden in ground litter by day.

**Host plant preference** – Armyworms feed on a variety of forage crops but fescue, oats, rye, etc. are the major forage concerns. This is because these forages are actively growing in the spring when armyworms are active.

**Scouting** - Arkansas producers are encouraged to diligently scout their pastures and hayfields for armyworms. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples.

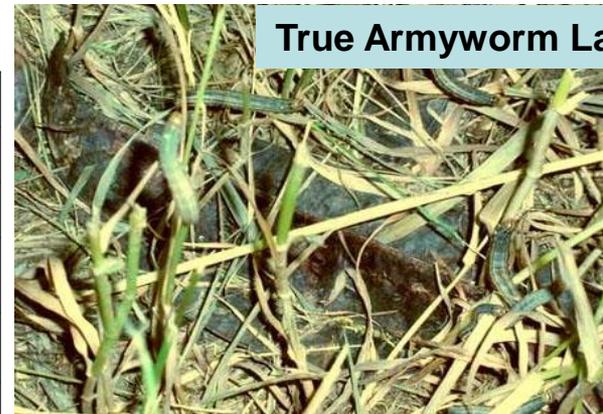
**Control** – Chemical control is usually needed when 3 or more worms per square foot are found. Read label instructions and follow harvesting and grazing restrictions. Below is list of insecticides used to control armyworms.

## True Armyworm - *Pseudaletia unipuncta*

### True Armyworm Adults



### True Armyworm Larvae



### Key Characteristics of Larvae



Brown net-like pattern on head

Insecticide	Form/Acre	Lb ai/Acre	Acres/Gal	Comments
Mustang Max (R) (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin)	2.8-4.0 oz	0.0175-0.025	32-45	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Baythroid XL (R) (12.7% beta-cyfluthrin)	2.6-2.8 oz	0.020-0.022	45.7-49.2	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Tombstone (R) (24.7% cyfluthrin)	1.6-1.9 oz	0.025-0.030	67.4-80	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Lambda-cy AG & others (R) (13% lambda-cyhalothrin, 1lb/gal)	2.5-3.8 oz	0.02-0.03	33-50	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Warrior II & generics (R) ~22.8% lambda-cyhalothrin, 2 lb/gal)	1.28-1.92 oz	0.02-0.03	66-100	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Sevin XLR Plus (44.1% carbaryl)	2-3 pt	0.5-1.0	2.7-4.0	Allow 2-3 days for control to become effective. Do not apply within 14 days of harvest or grazing.
Intrepid (22.6% methoxyfenozide)	4-8 oz.	0.06-0.12	16-32	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Blackhawk (36% spinosad) Tracer (44.2% spinosad)	1.1-2.2 oz. 1-2 oz	.033-.066	7-14/lb. 64-128	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 3 days of application.
Prevathon (5% chlorantraniliprole)	10-13 oz...*	0.034-0.044	10-13	No restriction for grazing or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay). * 2(ee) rate
Besiege (R) (9.26% chlorantraniliprole & 4.63% lambda-cyhalothrin)	6-9 oz.	0.059-0.088	14-21	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application

(R) = Restricted use pesticide