

# Alfalfa

## Webworms, Loopers and Armyworms

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### Webworms

Webworms tie up leaves with silken thread, creating a web which protects the larvae while feeding. Webbed leaves are often visible in the alfalfa terminals. Fields that are heavily infested have visible webs in the alfalfa canopy, producing a light gray or "frosted" appearance. Leaves inside the webbings are consumed leaving the tougher leaf veins.

Larvae grow to slightly over an inch in length, greenish or occasionally brownish orange, with six black spots (tubercles) on each segment, and a stiff hair extending from each tubercle. The larvae quickly crawl backwards and may escape from the webbing when disturbed.

### Loopers

Loopers are greenish caterpillars, tapered from back to front. Because of the arrangement of legs (only 3 prolegs) they walk with a typical looping motion. Usually two generations per year of this pest occur in Colorado.

### Armyworm

Yellow striped, fall and true armyworms have been detected in the High Plains region. These pests occasionally reach damaging numbers. The caterpillars are usually black, with two prominent stripes and many narrow bright ones on each side. At maturity they reach approximately 1.5 to 2 inches long. [Eggs](#) are laid in clusters on the upper side of leaves and covered with a gray, cottony material. Eggs hatch in a few days and larvae reach full size in 2 to 3 weeks. Larvae pupate on or just under the soil surface. Adults are brown moths that primarily fly at night but may be encountered flying up as you walk through the field.

## Management

Early cutting may give satisfactory control because the larvae cannot survive on dried alfalfa forage. Alfalfa stubble and the new regrowth, especially under the windrows, should be scouted within 2 to 3 days after cutting to make sure webworms are not feeding on regrowth. Insecticide applications are rarely warranted in the High Plains region.

Product List for Webworms, Loopers and Armyworms

<b>Insecticide</b>	<b>Product per Acre (FIPreharvest Interval, remarks oz. or oz. product)</b>	<b>Product per Acre (FIPreharvest Interval, remarks oz. or oz. product)</b>
Bacillus thuringiensis <sup>2</sup>	See labels	0 days. Use of a spreader-sticker is recommended
Baythroid 2E,XLR, <b>1</b>	0.8-1.6 (looper) 1.6-2.8 (webworm, armyworm)	7 days. 12 hr REI. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Maximum of 2.8 oz/ A applied per cutting and total 11.2 oz/A applied per season. Do not apply to seed alfalfa. Do not apply to mixed alfalfa-grass stands. 2.0-2.8 oz rate is recommended for yellowstriped armyworm.
carbaryl <b>1,2</b>	See labels	7 days. 12 hr REI. Most formulations are <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Do not apply to alfalfa in bloom. Sevin XLR+ is safe for bees if

chlorpyrifos 4E <b>R,1,2</b>	1 - 2 pts	applied at <1.5 lbs ai/acre when no bees are in the field. Do not apply more than once per cutting 14 days (1 pt), 21 days (over 1 pt rate). 24 hr REI. Do not make more than 4 applications/year or one application per cutting. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Do not apply when bees are present. Minor phytotoxicity may occur on rapidly growing foliage.
Cobalt <b>R1</b>	13-38	7 days after application of 13 fl oz, 14 days after application of 26 fl oz, 21 days after application of rates above 26 fl oz per acre. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Do not apply when bees are present.
lambda cyhalothrin <b>R,1,2</b>	1.92 – 3.2 (Loopers, Webworms) 2.56-3.84 (Armyworms)	1 day PHI forage, 7 day PHI hay. 24 hr REI. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Do not apply when bees are present. Maximum 3.84 oz/acre per cutting, 15.36 oz/A per season may be applied.
Lannate SP <b>R,1,2</b>	¼ - ½ lb (armyworm) ½ - 1 lb (loopers)	0 days, 7 days grazing or feeding, 48 hrs REI. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Do not apply more than 3.6 lbs ai/A/crop or make more than 10 applications/crop.
Mustang Max <b>R,1</b>	2.8– 4.0 (armyworms) 2.24-4.0 (webworms, loopers)	3 days cutting, grazing. 7 days harvest. 12 hr REI. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Maximum of 4.0 oz per cutting, 12.0 oz per season.
permethrin <b>R,1,2</b>	See labels	0 days. When rates greater than 0.1 lb ai then 14 day. Do not apply more than 0.2 lb ai per cutting. Highly toxic to bees. Do not apply when bees are present.
Proaxis <b>R,1</b>	1.92 – 3.2 (looper, webworms) 2.56-3.84 (armyworm)	1 day PHI forage, 7 day PHI hay. <b>Extremely Hazardous to Bees!</b> Maximum 3.84 oz/acre per cutting, 15.36 oz/acre per season may be applied.

**R**Restricted use pesticide **1**Labeled for chemigation **2**Generic active ingredient, several formulations

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Categories: Alfalfa, Insects, Alfalfa looper, Alfalfa webworm, armyworm

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