

# Community-Wide *Lygus* Action Plan No. 3

Trends of insect distribution and abundance are conveniently examined as averages over large areas. However, pest management is best implemented on a field-by-field basis, because of the inherent heterogeneity of insect populations.

## Community Trends

Our weekly samples are summarized as in past weeks in chart form (see Fig. 2, back page). Given the limits on interpretation, we can notice trends in *Lygus* population development:

- *Lygus* at higher levels during May than in April,
- Weeds & *Lygus* in them are in decline,
- Numbers in seed alfalfa declined last week,
- Nymph levels in alfalfa hay have stabilized.

## Field Specific Trends

Individual field trends span the gamut of population change (see Fig. 1, below). In general, weed patches have declined in attractiveness and production of *Lygus*, though there are individual exceptions. Some alfalfa hay fields are maintaining low level oscillations in *Lygus* numbers reflecting periodic cutting. Others, however, are still increasing in numbers of adults especially. Seed alfalfa, however, shows the greatest variation in population sizes and recent trends. Some fields have stabilized or begun to decline (likely due to spraying); others were and continue to be at low levels for *Lygus*. *Lygus* have not yet been found in cotton, though sweeping will begin next week.

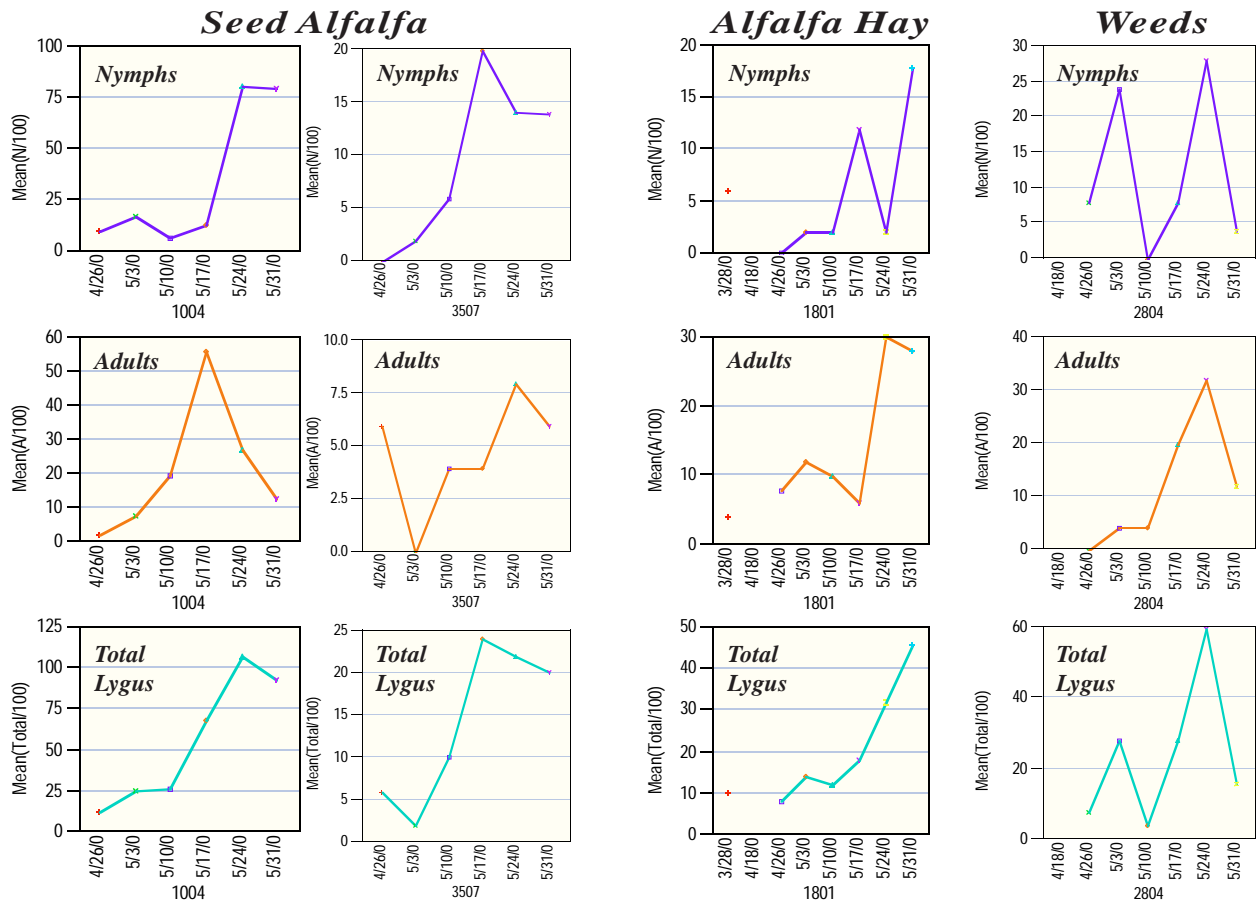


Figure 1: Individual field trends in *Lygus* levels are depicted above in a series of graphs of nymphs (N/100), adults (A/100) and total *Lygus* (Total/100) per 100 sweeps through time. The left two columns of charts show the variation in *Lygus* levels in two area seed alfalfa fields; *Lygus* in representative alfalfa hay (3rd column) and weeds (4th column) fields are also shown. Note that the scales are different for each chart.