

PASTURE PESTS

**Pest****Impact on pasture****Control**

Red legged earth mite
(RLEM)
Halotydeus destructor

Feeding kills seedling plants, reduces winter production of established plants. High mite numbers may totally wipe out emerging seedlings. Affected leaves are silvery-white. Damage occurs from autumn-spring in southern and western Australia & NSW. BOM extends into northern NSW and southern QLD.

Paddock hygiene, fallow periods between sow downs, seed treatment, strategic miticide use at sowing and during crop growth, use of TimeRite predictor package.

Blue oat mite (BOM)
Pentaleus major

Redheaded pasture cockchafer
Adoryphorus coulonii

Root feeding by larvae through autumn-winter. Obvious damage identified by pasture rolling back like carpet, pastures lacking vigour and production.

Heavy grazing/cutting in spring to reduce egg laying sites, maintenance of healthy, fertile and strong pastures to minimize impact.

Blackheaded pasture cockchafer
Aphodioides tasmaniae

Larvae live in tunnels, emerge and feed on leaf and decaying material on soil surface in autumn-winter period.

Strategic insecticide use, ploughing and cropping to reduce surface organic matter, reducing bare ground for egg laying by maintaining good pasture covers.

Lucerne flea (or clover flea)
Sminthurus viridis

Feeds on leaf by rasping away green leaf tissue leaving a white cuticle 'window'. Fouling of pasture reduces palatability. Damage occurs primarily between autumn-spring in NSW, SA and WA.

Paddock hygiene, fallow periods, insecticide use on seed and pasture if severe.

Black field cricket
Teleogryllus commodus

Nymphs and adults defoliate grass seedlings, established grasses and seeds during spring, late summer and early autumn. Live in cracks in ground, especially clay soils. Populations greatest after mild winters and dry summers.

Insecticide use (sprays and bait) from mid-late February.

Sitona weevil
Sitona discoideus

Larvae feed on roots and nodules, adults feed on leaf and stem leaving scalloped shaped notches. Reduces yield and persistence. Occurs throughout Australia, more severe in spring and autumn.

Early detection and control before egg laying in late autumn.

Pest	Impact on pasture	Control
Aphids <i>many species</i>	Adults and nymphs suck sap from leaves and stems causing stunted plants, leaf yellowing and death. Fouling of pasture reduces quality. Can carry viruses which cause further damage.	Paddock hygiene, fallow periods, insecticide use in heavy infestations.
Armyworms <i>many species</i>	Young larvae feed on leaf surfaces leaving scalloped marks on leaf edge, old larvae lop off tillers and seedheads. Most common in spring-early summer. Major outbreaks occur occasionally across Australia particularly after drought.	Insecticide.
White fringed weevil <i>Graphognathus leucoloma</i>	Tap root feeding by larvae damages seedlings and reduces vigour of older plants. Adult leaf feeding causes minor damage. Occurs throughout Australia, in particular from autumn to spring.	Crop rotation of non tap rooted plants and weeds, insecticide use to prevent egg laying.

Disease	Impact on pasture	Control
Seedling blight/Damping off <i>Caused by Pythium spp, Rhizoctonia solani, Phytophthora medicaginis, Aphanomyces euteiches</i>	Rotting and death of seed and root system before and after seedling emergence, in grasses and legumes. Common in wet conditions and poorly drained soils.	Fungicide seed treatment, correct sowing time.
Rust <i>many species</i>	Reddish brown patches and leaf twisting and shriveling. Causes decline in yields, reduction in palatability, and nutritional quality of foliage. Affects ryegrass especially. More prevalent during warm, moist weather.	Use of rust tolerant/resistant varieties, hard grazing and cutting to remove infected material.
Phytophthora root rot <i>Phytophthora medicaginis</i>	Attacks tap root causing rotting, and consequent yellowing, wilting and plant death. Occurs throughout Australia, particularly in heavy, poorly drained soils, and wet conditions.	Use of resistant varieties, careful irrigated water use.