Magic Valley Sugarbeet Grower
Root Maggot IPM Program Training

The situation
Sugarbeets are a major crop in the Magic Valley with about 125,000 acres being grown in 6 counties. Sugarbeet root maggots have the potential to severely damage yields but often do not economically reduce yield on most acres. Various insecticides are available that adequately control sugarbeet root maggot. However, these insecticides may not be required every year in or in most growing areas. Sugarbeet growers can utilize an integrated pest management (IPM) program to monitor sugarbeet root maggot populations and to apply insecticides only when economically beneficial. Therefore, insecticide use can be reduced which saves the growers money and lowers the amount of pesticides in the environment.

Our response
An educational luncheon was conducted in the Jerome and Mini-Cassia areas to train sugarbeet growers about conducting their own integrated pest management program. Growers were provided with a University of Idaho IPM guide (CIS 999), instructed on root maggot fly identification, and provided with the "sticky stakes" needed to monitor root maggot fly populations in their own fields.

luncheons, educational materials, and population monitoring materials. The Amalgamated Sugar Company cooperated by assisting growers with in-field advise and control recommendations.

Achievements
Nearly 50 producers were trained to conduct their own root maggot IPM program. These producers grow about 6,000 acres of sugarbeets. They now have the information and tools to make insecticide application decisions based on research-proven root maggot fly population thresholds.

The future
The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System will continue to train growers, fieldmen and consultants about the economic and environmental benefits of utilizing IPM programs in crop production systems.

For more information
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Cooperators and co-sponsors
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