



Adult



Nymph

Identification and Incidence: Migrating PLH populations become established on alfalfa during the second cutting and may reduce yields until late August. Foliar injury is indicated by yellowing of foliage, termed hopperburn, and plants are stunted. Critical periods of injury occur from late second cutting to early fourth cutting.

Sampling: Prediction of injury depends on detection of abundant PLH presence prior to onset of foliar injury. Sweep net sampling is the most effective method.

Economic Threshold: Potential for economic injury exists when number of PLH per 10 sweeps exceeds height of stand expressed in inches. Threshold may be increased during periods of vigorous growth or decreased during periods of stand stress. Presence of PLH nymphs in abundance indicates high potential for injury. Action thresholds for resistant varieties are three times the thresholds for regular varieties.

Action thresholds for control of PLH			
Stand Height Inches	Alfalfa Tolerance for Stress		
	Low	Medium	High
	Action Threshold of PLH/10 Sweeps		
6	3	6	9
10	5	10	15
16	8	16	24
20+	10	20	30

Management Options: Timely harvests will reduce PLH population development and impact. New seedlings are especially vulnerable and should be monitored closely. The use of PLH resistant alfalfa is an alternative to the use of foliar treatments, although they should be watched closely during the establishment year. For more information, visit aginsects.osu.edu and extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-026.