

Aug 23, 2018

# Mint Pest Alert Newsletter

## - Central Oregon -

### Almost Time to Sample for MRB Larvae

Late Aug/early Sep is the time to scout for Mint Root Borer (MRB) larvae in the soil if fall control is being considered (i.e. Lorsban, Mocap, nematodes). MRB larvae drop from the foliage to the ground in August and tunnel into rhizomes, where they will feed into the fall.

Larvae are generally too small to see in August, while sampling in late September is too late as damage is done.

Control treatments must be applied before larvae form hibernacula (overwintering, soil-based cocoons). Based on the insect development model, hibernaculum formation began Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> in Madras/Culver area, and will begin Sep 7<sup>th</sup> in Powell Butte.



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service

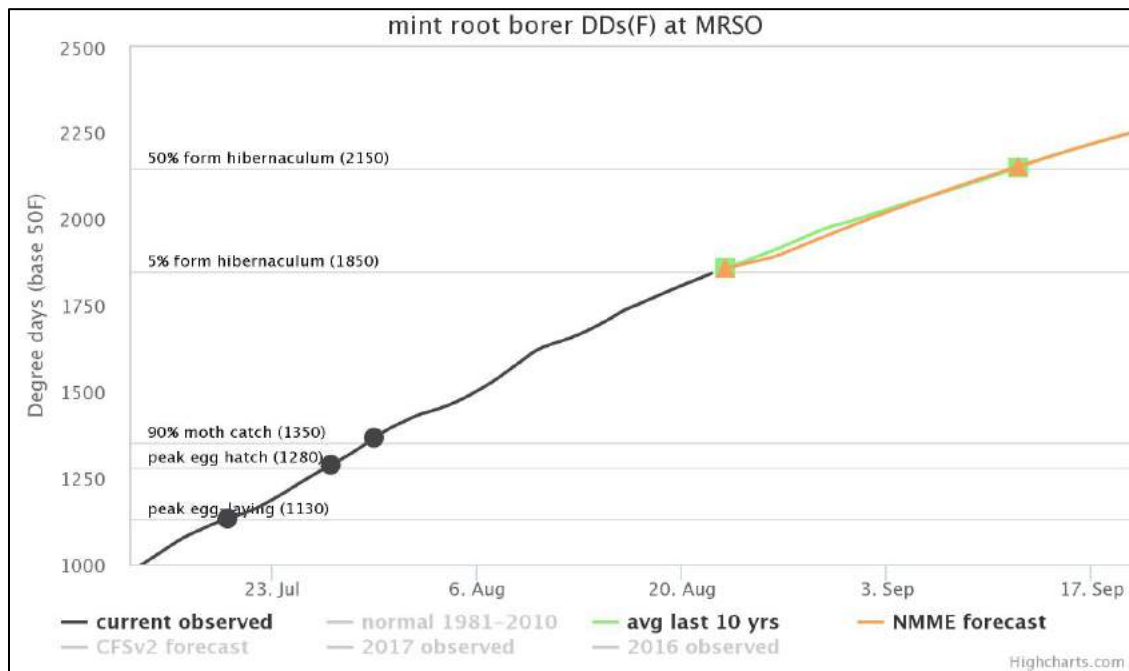
Questions? Contact Clare Sullivan:  
[Clare.Sullivan@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Clare.Sullivan@oregonstate.edu)

*Sponsored by the Oregon Mint Commission*

**OREGONmint**

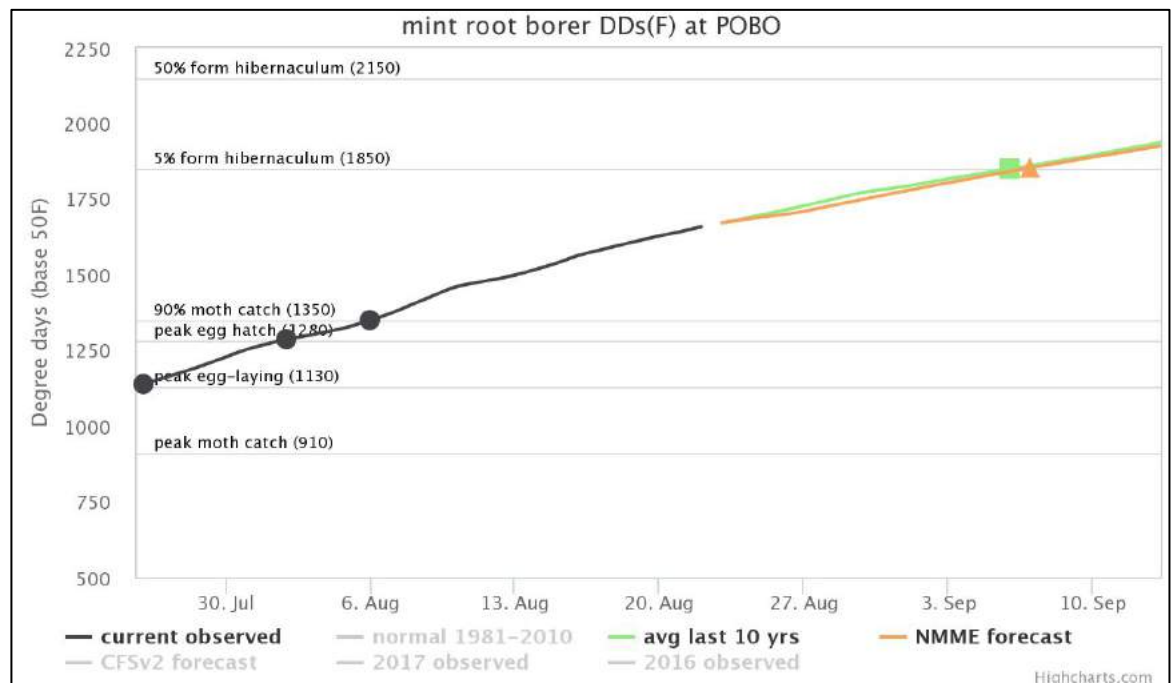
## Mint Root Borer (MRB) Development – Culver & Madras

- ✧ 5% hibernaculum formation predicted for Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ✧ 50% hibernaculum formation predicted for Sep 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Start sampling for larvae next week



## MRB Development – Prineville & Powell Butte

- ✧ 5% hibernaculum formation predicted for Sep 7<sup>th</sup>
- ✧ Still 2 weeks before start sampling for larvae





## Sampling Recommendations for MRB larvae:

- Sample 1ft<sup>2</sup> of soil to a depth of 2-3" (include rhizomes)
- 2 samples taken every 2-3 acres
- Minimum 25 samples per field
- Screen samples in the field or recover larvae with Berlese funnel in the laboratory
- ***Treatment threshold = average of 2-3 larvae/ft<sup>2</sup> sample***

For more information: <http://mint.ippc.orst.edu/mrbfact.pdf>

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/agronomic/mint/mint-mint-root-borer>



\*Photos courtesy of Ralph Berry & IPPC