



FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victorian and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
232 Baillie Street, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 3170 or 0427 600 228

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

OILSEED NEWS

MONITOR SOYBEANS NOW FOR INSECTS



HOLE IN ONE: ignoring insect pests in soybeans right now could be a costly exercise.

to be downgraded from human consumption markets to crushing quality.

Soybean growers in northern Victoria need to be on full alert for insects that can cause serious damage to grain quality.

Cobram DPI agronomist Dale Grey has found ‘green vegetable bugs’ and ‘heliiothis’ caterpillars carefully monitor for these pests which can cause grain

“It’s too late to monitor crops on their final watering, as the insects can’t chew through the grains in the later stages” said Mr Grey this week. “But the later sown crops need to be monitored right now”.

He said that the ‘heliiothis’ moths, *Helicoverpa armigera*, are likely to have flown in from maize crops and laid eggs on nearby soybean crops. The newly-hatched grubs are causing damage as they chew through the pods and into the grain.

Human consumption crops are worth about \$100 per tonne more than crushing quality grain, and with yields of around 2 to 4 tonnes per hectare expected and the total price of spraying around \$16 to \$22 a hectare, it's not hard to see that a missed spray may be a very costly exercise.

Mr Grey said that the 'economic threshold' for spraying green vegetable grubs is two per 20 sweeps of a sweepnet, and for heliothis, it is four per ten sweeps.
