

2024 Army Cutworm Research, Owyhee County, Idaho

Cindy Salo
208.850.3313

www.ArmCutworms.org
ArmyCutworms@gmail.com

A major army cutworm outbreak, and associated cheatgrass die-offs, seem **unlikely** this spring. *But please let me know if you see either larvae or bare areas within cheatgrass stands.*

Army cutworm outbreaks and die-offs seem to occur after:

1. a year of dry weather through summer,
2. fall cheatgrass germination,
3. a big flight of adult moths in October, and
4. a dry winter through January.

2024 Details & Outlook:

1. Dry prior year? **No.** Grand View got 80% more precipitation from September 2022 to August 2023 as during the corresponding periods before the 2003 and 2014 outbreaks.
2. Fall germination? **Yes.** In late October, I saw carpets of cheatgrass seedlings from Richfield to Bruneau Dunes State Park, and on toward Oreana on the south side of highway 78.
3. Big moth flight? **No.** Last October I trapped about half as many moths as the previous year. This was less than 10% the number I trapped before the 2014 outbreak.
4. Dry winter? **No.** Grand View got over twice as much precipitation (3.3 inches) from October through January this winter as it did the winters before the 2003 and 2014 outbreaks and die-offs.

Thank you!

Cindy Salo

ArmyCutworms@gmail.com
208.850.3313

WANTED: Army cutworms



Please tell me if you see:

- Larvae hiding under cow pies during the day, through April.
- Larvae feeding on seedlings or shrubs, most often at night, through April.
- Bare areas where you usually see cheatgrass, through summer.