

Even with early spring rains reducing some grasshopper numbers this summer, late season grasshopper activity has been high in many parts of Nebraska, especially the Panhandle, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln entomologist says.

With wheat harvest finishing up, many wheat growers soon will start to get ready for winter wheat planting, said Jeff Bradshaw, UNL Extension entomologist.

However, it's important to remember that grasshoppers can make emerging wheat seedlings their next meal.

"The risk increases the closer we get to fall and more grasshoppers are adults," Bradshaw said. Some growers may want to plant earlier this year because last year wheat crops were damaged by October snow storms. However, the problem with earlier planting, in addition to wheat streak mosaic, is the seedlings are also more susceptible to grasshoppers.

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