

PLEASE POST



Insect Alert

Where are stored grain insects coming from?

Many grain producers and elevator managers wonder where stored grain insects come from. In fact, this can be a frustrating question, because often the appearance of grain insects seems to be purely random or a matter of bad luck.

Old crop is the primary source of grain infestation for new crop going into storage. Simply put, the longer grain is stored, the more likely it will be infested. Loading new crop on top of old is about the worst thing anyone can do if they hope to keep grain free from insects.

Even a handful of grain residue is enough to harbour hundreds of insects. When new grain is stored, insects can easily migrate into new grain from old grain residues in grain bins, aeration systems or from the outside in piles of rotting grain.

Many are convinced that grain storage insects are coming in off the field. While this may be true for certain insect species in warmer climates, this is not thought to be true for the rusty grain beetle. Rusty grain beetles seen in the field, on the combine or even in the home, are actually on the move looking for a new place to live and breed. These insects are strongly attracted to the odour given off by

freshly harvested grain and they can easily fly from old crop and grain residues to other places where grain is stored.

What can be done to prevent grain infestation?

The most obvious answer to this question is to get rid of old crop and grain residues before storing new crop. Besides this, it is a good idea to apply **Protect-It®** to the empty granary. Use the aeration fan or compressed air blower (available from Hedley Technologies) to apply **Protect-It®** at the rate 454g (1 lb)/1000 square feet, 1-2 weeks before harvest.

As most grain insects are strong fliers, they can often reach your newly stored crop from sources of infestation miles away. Again, **Protect-It®** can help. Apply **Protect-It®** to your grain at harvest as it is loaded into storage. **Protect-It®** will either repel or eliminate insects entering your granaries and will prevent the grain from becoming infested.

Take the extra time to prepare your granaries and treat your new crop with **Protect-It®**. For more information, please call us toll-free at 1-888-476-4473.



1.888.476.4473
www.hedleytech.com