Biology/Phenology

Effect of Cover Crop Control on Plant Bug Damage in Pears

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Abstract: A study was conducted on the effect of plant bug damage due to broadleaf weeds in the ground cover. The ground cover, which was mowed every other week and sprayed with two broadleaf herbicides, was compared to the untreated control (neither mowed nor sprayed) for the type of vegetation cover, number of plant bugs and percent pear damage. Significantly higher numbers of plant bugs were caught in the untreated control, while pear damage was numerically higher in the mowed-herbicide treatment. The numerically higher damage present in the mowed and herbicide treatment could be attributed to the absence of broadleaf weeds, the plant bugs' preferred food source. If broadleaf weeds can be sustained throughout the season, plant bug damage may be reduced.