CEREAL FIELD HEROES

ATTACK!

GET TO KNOW THE HEROES AND VILLAINS IN YOUR CEREALS.

WHEAT MIDGE

These pests feed on the surface of developing wheat kernels. Young wheat midge larvae are translucent white maggots that turn bright orange when mature.

VS

MACROGLENES PENETRANS

This parasitoid overwinters as larva inside wheat midge larva. The yellowish, maggot-like Field Hero grows rapidly in the spring, destroying the midge larva.

GROUND BEETLES

Studies found 14 species of ground beetles feeding on wheat midge larvae. This Field Hero is narrower at the eyes than the section behind the head and its protective armour wings may have striations or pits.

GRASSHOPPERS

Several species of grasshoppers are potential pests of cereal crops. In many instances, they are concentrated around field edges early in the season.

VS

BEE FLIES

The larval form of bee flies prey on grasshopper eggs. These Field Heroes are whitish, crescent-shaped and 9 to 22 mm long when mature. They are tapered towards the head with ring-like segments.

BLISTER BEETLES

Blister beetle larvae (*Epicauta* spp.) are Field Heroes who feed on grasshopper eggs. Their mouthparts and legs gradually get smaller as they mature, reaching 13 to 25 mm in length.

APHIDS

These plant sap suckers are small, pear-shaped, soft-bodied insects. Cereal aphids are often pale green, but colour may vary from black to red.

VS

LADY BEETLES

Also known as Lady Bugs, these beetles are typically round or oval and brightly coloured, often with spots on wings. These Field Heroes can eat as many 160 aphids in 24 hours.

GREEN LACEWING

Green lacewing larvae are alligator-like in shape, cream coloured with brown markings and sickle-shaped mandibles. These Field Heroes inject a toxic saliva into aphids.

FIELD HEROES

THINK BENEFICIALS BEFORE YOU SPRAY

- Scout for pests and predators
- Only spray when economic thresholds are exceeded
- Use selective insecticide, where possible
- Consult the label for best time to spray
- Rotate crops
- Maintain habitat for beneficial insects