Issue 3 – June 6, 2024

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

Insects: Some foliar insecticide applications for flea beetles have been reported from the Northwest and Eastern regions. Some sporadic cutworm problems are occurring. There are reports of a canola field in the Northwest being sprayed for cutworms, and a canola field in the Southwest was reseeded because of cutworms. A sunflower field in the Central region was sprayed for cutworms. Other instances of high cutworm populations have been reported. Seedcorn maggots are being noticed in some fields, but no serious damage reported. English grain aphid has been found in Southwest Manitoba (on May 28) but only at low levels. Some higher levels of true armyworm adults have been detected in recent weeks in traps in the Interlake and Eastern regions.

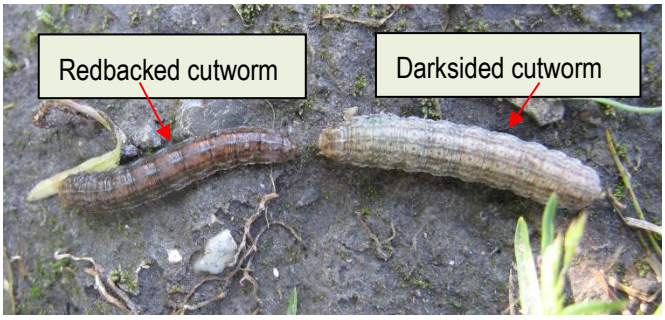
Disease: A usual suspect is appearing in wheat – tan spot. It's a fungal disease that loves cool weather, of which we've had a lot this spring. Under cool, wet conditions, the disease will move up the plants and has the greatest potential for yield reduction when it gets to the flag leaves.

Weeds: Weed growth is ramping up across the province although it's slowed somewhat due to cooler conditions. High winds and wet field conditions have made spraying difficult for most farmers. With most areas still seeding, we have burnoff operations to complete while early seeded crops have started to get post-emergent sprays. Drift complaints are on the rise due to recent windy conditions.

Entomology

Cutworms

Cutworms are being found in some fields. So far, the main species seem to be redbacked, darksided and dingy cutworm. Some have commented on the variation in sizes they are seeing in a field. This can be caused by a few factors, one being species of cutworm. Dingy cutworm overwinters as a partially grown larva, while redbacked and darksided overwinter as eggs. This time of year, dingy cutworms may be bigger than redbacked and darksided. Some samples of redbacked and darksided cutworms that came in recently were early- to mid-instars. Cutworms can be harder to find when looking for them when the cutworms are smaller. Sometimes it is good to have a tray or pan, as well as a trowel, with you in the field when looking for cutworms. A soil sifter can also be used if you have one. When checking near a damaged



Report compiled by John Gavloski, David Kaminski, Kim Brown
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plant for cutworms, scoop some of the soil into the tray and carefully move it to level it a bit while searching for the cutworms. Older larvae tend to stand out more; younger larvae require a bit more attention.

If you are noticing defoliation to leaves and cotyledons, or just pieces of stems left above ground, but not a lot of clipping, and not a lot of other insects that could explain this, a species of climbing cutworm such as dingy would be a prime suspect. Clipped stems laying on the ground usually mean a species of surface-feeding cutworm such as redbacked or darksided. Some fields may have a mix of species.

Based on the instars of larvae currently present, it could be at least a couple of more weeks in some regions before a significant portion of the cutworms have turned to pupae, thus ending their damaging stage for the year.
For more information on cutworm biology, identification, monitoring, thresholds and management, see our newly revised factsheet on Cutworms in Field Crops at: cutworms-in-field-crops.pdf (gov.mb.ca)

Plant Pathology

Tan spot

Winter wheat is at or approaching stem elongation. As this picture shows, typical tan spot lesions – brown spots surrounded by a yellow halo – can be seen on the leaves in the lower part of the canopy. Before full-blown lesions appear, you should be able to see "proto-symptoms" – translucent yellow spots when you hold leaves up to the light (second photo). Reports on tan spot began to come in last week so it's important to be vigilant.
If your scouting indicates that tan spot is advancing to upper leaves, you will likely need to consider a fungicide application at T2 timing to protect the flag leaf. If the symptoms are not advancing, as might be true if we are into a hot, dry period, you might be better to hold off until T3 timing, especially if the risk of Fusarium Head Blight infection is high or increasing. The new FHB Risk Mapping Tool (prairiefhb.ca) is quite intuitive and you can use it to determine the risk in your area.

Photo courtesy Cameron Hildebrand

An interesting observation from the field this week was an orange discoloration at the base of standing canola stubble. This is likely saprophytic growth of a Fusarium sp. that is involved in the breakdown of the canola residue, as are the other fungi (sooty moulds), also evident on the stems. It is more of a curiosity than a concern.

Photo courtesy Kent McKay

Weeds

Drift

Challenging spray conditions over the last few weeks have seen an increase in drift complaints. The 2024 Guide to Field Crop Protection has information on page 13 on how to handle a drift complaint. If you suspect drift has occurred MB Ag has a Pesticide Incident Check List as well as a Pesticide Incident Reporting Form available here: pesticide-incident-check-list.pdf (gov.mb.ca), and pesticide-incident-reporting-form.pdf (gov.mb.ca)

Pigweeds

Scout now for waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. All pigweeds are similar at very early growth stages making it difficult to determine which species you are dealing with. The best way to tell small pigweeds apart is by the presence/absence of hairs on stems and petioles (leaf stems). If you are able to see hairs on stems and petioles then you are dealing with redroot pigweed. Smooth stems mean a different pigweed, which could be waterhemp, Palmer amaranth or a few other species. If you suspect waterhemp plan herbicides accordingly as previous infestations found in MB have been resistant to herbicides groups 2, 9 and 14.

Redroot pigweed (left) and waterhemp (right). Note the hairs on redroot pigweed stems and petioles. You can see and feel the difference – redroot pigweed will feel rough and bumpy while waterhemp feels very smooth.

Forecasts

Diamondback moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored across Manitoba in May and June to determine how early and in what levels populations of diamondback moth occur. Diamondback moths have been found in 67 out of 84 traps that counts were reported from. Trap counts have generally been low so far in the Northwest and Southwest regions. Some moderate counts have occurred in the Eastern, Interlake and Central regions.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 111 from a trap near Rosenfeld in the Central region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 6, 2024.

Lower Risk: 0-25 Elevated Risk: 26-200 Higher level of moth catch: 200+

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count	
Northwest	Makaroff	13	
	Grandview, Roblin	11	
	Grandview, Shell Valley	4	
	Dropmore, Grandview	3	
	Bield, Cracknell, Merriedale	2	
Southwest	South Belmont	8	
	Brandon East	7	
	Coultier, Rivers	4	
	Baldur, Ninga, Pierson	2	
	Melita	1	
Central	First week with weekly trap counts greater than 25: May 26 – June 1		
	Rosenfeld	111	← Highest cumulative count
	Altona	83	
	Horndean, Rosenort	50	
	Fannystelle, Rosetown	36	
	Starbuck	35	
Eastern	First week with weekly trap counts greater than 25: May 5-11		
	Hadashville	72	
	Beausejour	40	
	Stead	38	
	Whitemouth	10	
	Tourond	3	
Interlake	First week with weekly trap count greater than 25: May 12-18		
	Riverton	105	
	Hodgson	84	
	Vidir	39	
	Ledwyn	38	
	Arborg, Gimli	35	

Larvae of diamondback moth have not been found or reported in Manitoba yet. Look for diamondback moth larvae when doing crop scouting in canola or other cruciferous crops, particularly in the Eastern half of Manitoba and Interlake region.

Highest counts in each region and a monitoring summary are updated weekly on the Insect Page of the Manitoba Agriculture website at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/diamondback-moth-monitoring-june-6-2024.pdf

True Armyworms

Larvae of armyworms (*Mythimna unipuncta*), sometimes also called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. Adult moths of armyworms migrate to Manitoba in the spring from overwintering sites from the southern US. A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored from early-May until late-July to determine how early and in what levels populations of armyworms have arrive.

Some moderate to high counts have occurred from traps in the Eastern and Interlake regions of Manitoba. The highest cumulative count is 222, from a trap near Dencross in the Eastern region. There are some areas in the Eastern and Interlake regions where looking for larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses would be good to prioritize.

Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of armyworms in pheromone-baited traps for agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 5, 2024.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	Russell	0
Southwest	Pierson	9
	Medora, Rivers	6
	Belmont	1
	All other counts 0	
Central	Morris	9
	St. Joseph	8
	All other counts 0	
Eastern	Dencross	222
	Beausejour	115
	New Bothwell	11
	Lorette	7
	Kleefeld	3
Interlake	Riverton	204
	Washow Bay	92
	Fisher Branch	65
	Moosehorn	63
	Teulon	27

← Highest cumulative count

Highest counts in each region of Manitoba and a monitoring summary are updated weekly on the Insect Page of the Manitoba Agriculture website at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/true-armyworm-trap-results-06-05-2024.pdf

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A map showing armyworm counts from Manitoba, Eastern Canada, and several Northeast U.S. states is available at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7164d23d488246d198dcf7a07d8c9021/page/Home/?views=Welcome.
Go to the link “TAW”. The “Play” button at the bottom can be set so the map automatically advances (click middle arrow), or set to “Stop” and the arrows at either side of the button used to go forward or backward a week at a time.

To **report observations** on insects, plant pathogens, or weeds that may be of interest or importance to farmers and agronomists in Manitoba, please send messages to one of the following Manitoba Agriculture Pest Management Specialists.

John Gavloski, Entomologist (204) 750-0594
David Kaminski, Field Crop Pathologist (204) 750-4248
Kim Brown, Weed Specialist (431) 344-0239

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