



“Major sunflower growing regions, have accumulated 75-85% of normal Growing Degree Days. It would be fair to say that Manitoba Sunflowers are ~ 7-14 days behind a normal year.”

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 11

Crop Stage

Majority of fields at flowering, R-5. Some in *Western* region finished flowering, R-6.

Insects

Some sunflower midge damage being noticed, key feature is abnormal growth of the head and lack of ray petals. When broken apart, small larvae may be present with brown feeding evidence.

Lygus bug does not appear to be an economical problem in many fields this year, adult lygus have been found in less than 40% of fields surveyed since July 24th. Very few of which have been near threshold.

Get out to the field to scout for lygus and keep in mind that banded sunflower moth counts are lower than last year when deciding whether an insecticide treatment is necessary.

Diseases

As the sunflower crop progresses, more diseases are starting to appear. Sclerotinia wilt, middle stalk rot and early head rot infection as well as rust and phoma have all been observed.

Verticillium wilt has been observed in a couple of fields in the *North Central* region. The disease initially affects the lower leaves and progresses upwards and can affect the entire plant. The symptoms are fairly distinct - necrosis between the veins surrounded by chlorosis. The leaves then dry up quickly. Verticillium can be a particularly serious disease on lighter soils.

With no fungicide treatment available and yield loss imminent, situations like these emphasize the importance of a solid 3 or 4 year rotation between sunflowers with non host crops. Verticillium wilt and sclerotinia are both a soil born fungus which survives in the soil for years.

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Disease and lack of Growing Degree Days.

Scouting Images



Sunflower Midge damage - Abnormal head growth with lack of ray petals.



Sunflower Midge damage - Brown necrosis, evidence of midge larval feeding.



Verticillium Wilt - Necrosis between veins followed by rapid drying.