



“While most sunflowers are well done flowering in the Western region, some producers in the Central and Eastern regions are worried about delayed maturity and early frost risk.”

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 12

Crop Stage

R-5 to R-6. Flowering period is being observed as ~ 14-16 days. Late development and early frost is on the mind of many producers in the *Central* and *Eastern* regions. Sunflowers at flowering are most vulnerable to frost. It is taking ~92 days for sunflowers to reach R-6 this year as opposed to 84 days on an average year. Sunflowers between R-7 and R-8 should be able to withstand temperatures of -1.1°C with little injury (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/procrop/sun/sunfst09.htm>). No sunflowers were observed at R-7 last week.

Insects

Banded Sunflower Moth trap counts have increased this week. Parasitic wasps are being found at high populations in many sunflower fields. These long and slender bodied wasps are parasites of banded sunflower moths, they parasitize the moth larvae which are the economical stage of the insect.

Diseases

Sclerotinia wilt and mid stalk rot are being observed in virtually all fields surveyed. The majority at low incidence (<5%) but some upwards of 15-20%. Wet soil conditions have initiated the germination of sclerotia in the soil which form the apothecia (small mushrooms) that produce the disease spores. While sclerotinia wilt infection occurs directly from the soil to plant roots, mid stalk and head rot infection is spread by air borne spores. Consideration should be given to preceding crop rotations when high levels of disease are being found in crops this year.

While rust is still being monitored in many fields, the progression of infection varies with some reporting of increased pustule development in the past week due to weather. Many producers with 0-1% infection on upper leaves during late flowering are deciding not to treat. These decisions are being made based on % infection and particularly crop stage and weather conditions.

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Slow development.

Scouting Images



Crop Stage R-6 Flowering is complete, ray flowers are wilting and drying.



BSM Parasite - Ichneumonid wasp
Source: www.sunflowernsa.com



Sclerotinia Mid Stalk Rot