

Sunflower CROP REPORT

Aug 3, 2009
Report 9

“As we head into flowering, it is time to get out into the field to scout for disease and insects.”

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 9

Crop Stage

R-2 to R-4. A few plants at early flowering. A lot of variability in height and leaf size across the province. Late seeded fields (after June 6) at or reaching R-1.

Insects

Lygus bug nymphs and adults being found in the majority of fields. Counts taken last week indicate 1-4 adult lygus bugs per 50 plants or < 1 per 13 plants. Economic threshold is 1 adult lygus bug / 9 plants for confection sunflowers. Insecticide labels for Matador® and Warrior® have been expanded to include Sunflowers for control of Lygus. Visit www.canadasunflower.com for full labels.

Banded Sunflower Moths have been showing up in traps in the past two weeks.

Many beneficial insects have been spotted in the field as well. These include minute pirate bugs, spined soldier bugs and lacewing larvae. Remember that insecticides harm these insects as well, so make sure that you are targeting a specific pest(s) when spraying.

Diseases

Rust update: In July, rust was found in 90% of fields surveyed in the *Western* region and 65% of fields surveyed in the *Central* region (slightly less in North Central area). As we head into flowering, it is important to get out to the field and decide whether spraying for rust is necessary. Questions to ask yourself:

- ◇ Is infection (cinnamon brown pustules) present on lower, middle or upper leaves?
- ◇ What % infection is present on upper leaves?
- ◇ What stage is the crop at?

Many of the fields where rust was found had low levels which may not require treatment. Although cool temperatures have been slowing disease development, lots of free moisture has been available for spread of infection. It is the upper 4-6 leaves that we want to protect - the most effective timing for spraying is at early flower when rust first appears on upper leaves (or before).

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Cool growing conditions; we are currently at only 65-85% of normal accumulated Growing Degree Days.

Scouting Images



Beneficial Insect - Spined soldier bug



Beneficial Insect - Minute pirate bug
Source: www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/pests



Lygus bug nymphs
Source: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology