



“As we wrap up the survey and crop reports for the 2009 season, we welcome your feedback. Please submit comments and/or suggestions to info@canadasunflower.com. Thank you to all participating producers.”

Manitoba Sunflower FINAL Crop Report

Crop Stage

R-5 to R-7 in the *Central* and *Eastern* regions. R-6 to R-8 in the *Western* region. Sunflowers reach physiological maturity (R-9) approx. 120-130 days from planting. Anticipate 130 days this season. Sunflowers at least 105 days from planting (R-8) should be able to withstand a light frost (-3 °C). However, if a killing frost occurs before maturity, expect various levels of yield and quality loss, depending on crop stage.

Insects

Since the majority of sunflower crops have finished flowering, insecticide applications have wrapped up. Those with late seeded June crops which are significantly behind are deciding not to invest in spraying.

Low levels of sunflower midge damage being found in most fields, particularly in the headlands.

A few fields with sunflower heads that appear to have been ‘cut off’ are being observed, sunflower head-clipping weevil is the suspected culprit.

Diseases

New rust pustule development observed last week. It is important to keep the upper four leaves healthy before and during flowering. Most fungicide applications have already taken place and new infection showing up after flowering is not being treated, for the most part.

Sclerotinia wilt, mid stalk rot and head rot being observed at various levels ranging from 4% to 20%. Head rot symptoms being observed to show up after flowering, usually at stage R-7. No fungicides are available for sclerotinia in sunflowers.

Other diseases being observed last week include Alternaria stem spot, Phoma and Phomopsis.

Current Crop Limiting Factors

The main crop limiting factors as we head into September will be disease and risk of early frost.

Scouting Images

R-7 back of head starts to turn pale yellow



Sclerotinia Head Rot



Phoma Black Stem



R-8 back of head yellow; bracts green
R-9 back of head yellow; bracts yellow/brown

Water soaked lesions on back of head and white growth between developing seeds.

Black lesions surround the leaf petiole. Often multiple infections per plant.