

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

*"High number of lygus bugs have been reported in canola, and may migrate into sunflower crops when swathed."*

## Report 9

Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Staging

Some fields in the central north region of the province are almost finished flowering and approaching the **R-6** stage. Fields in other areas of the province are starting to flower, and are **R-5.1 to R-5.3**. Drought stress continues to develop in areas of lighter soil limiting plant development.

### Insects

High populations of **lygus bug** has been reported in canola. Currently, the lygus bug populations in canola are mostly in the nymph stage. The nymphs lack wings inhibiting their ability to migrate. As canola continues to be swathed around the province, continue to monitor for migrating lygus bug into sunflower fields.

There has been evidence of damage caused by the **Sunflower Head Clipping Weevil** in fields in the south central portion of the province. The adult lays its eggs in a circle around the stem below the head and feeding by the larva causes the head to be cut of the stem and fall to the ground. Damage is usually sporadic and not economical.

The **Sunflower Moth** has not been noticed in Manitoba. The moth migrates each year from the southern states. This migratory lifestyle means that the insect is only an occasional pest, but can be very damaging when it does reach Manitoba. A typical infestation is usually localized. The greyish-tan moth moves into fields in early bloom. Keep an eye out for this pest.

### Disease

**Sclerotinia** is increasing across the province; however is still low in incidence. Basal rot, mid-stalk rot and head rot are all present. Incidences of sclerotinia may increase if rainfall continues in areas of the province. Currently, no fungicides are registered for head-rot on sunflowers.

**Rust** continues to develop around the province. Incidence and severity is low in the infected fields. The economic threshold for rust is 1% infection of the upper 4 leaves during early flowering. The telia (black overwintering) stage of rust is evident in the north central region. The disease can spread rapidly, and it remains important to monitor for this disease in fields which are just starting to flower.

### Limiting Factors Insects and Drought



Sclerotinia head rot is developing across the province. Characterized by a brown-watery rot that causes shredding of the stem and heat.



Banded Sunflower Moth larva feeding on a sunflower kernel. Young larva are off-white and turn yellow, light pink, and green when mature.



Rust telia are the overwintering stage of Sunflower rust. Telia are black and only on the upper surface of the leaf.