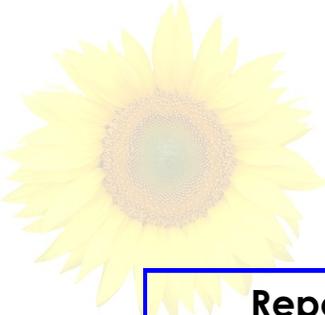




# MB Sunflower Crop Report



*"Many of the earlier planted fields are past the economic stage for rust and lygus bug damage and disease pressure remains low for later planted fields."*

## Report 11

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Staging

Many fields are at the R-6 stage which is when the ray petals are wilting and the outer row of seeds in the head are starting to harden. Fields in the north central portion of the province are approaching **R-7** which is when the back of the heads start to turn pale yellow. Later planting fields continue to progress through the flowering.

### Insects

Monitoring for lygus bug continues in some areas of the province. As sunflowers mature and seeds harden, the potential for damage by lygus bug decreases.

Feeding by Banded Sunflower Moth larva continues throughout the province. Early instar larvae are off-white, and late instar larvae are pinkish to red, and turn green with a brown head capsule. Late instar larvae have been observed around the province. Larva can continue to chew into seeds as they mature and harden. Banded sunflower moth larva can cause webbing on the face of the sunflower head. Spiders can also make webbing, but the webbing by the banded sunflower moth larva is less structured and organized in appearance. Look for larva damage to seeds to confirm the source of the webbing.

### Disease

Disease pressure remains low across the province. Sclerotinia infection remains below 5% in most fields in all areas. As mentioned last week, head rot has started to appear in the south central and eastern areas of the province. Incidence of sclerotinia head rot could increase if weather conditions become conducive.

Levels of rust also remain low. Most sunflower fields are past the economical stage for rust infection and for fields still flowering infection levels do not warrant control.

### Birds

Blackbirds have started to feed on oil seed fields mostly in the north and south central areas of the province. The birds sit on the head, reach over and remove seeds. Often the empty seeds can be found sitting in the back of the head.

### Limiting Factors



Banded Sunflower Moth webbing on the face of a sunflower head.



Sclerotinia head rot incidence remains low but disease development is entirely weather dependent



Blackbirds hovering over a sunflower field. They can cause significant yield loss.