NATIONAL SUNFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

***"Rust uredinia is present in the north central portion of province. It may spread quickly by wind if environmental conditions remain optimal."***

## Report 7 Friday, July 22nd 2011

### Staging

Early fields are almost complete flowering **(R-5.7 to R-5.9)** and are looking very healthy, despite drought stress in some areas causing the leaves to wilt. Later planting fields continue to develop through the re early reproductive stages and will begin to flower soon also.

### Insects

**Banded Sunflower Moth** eggs have been found on the outer ring of bracts on sunflower heads and larva have hatched in some areas of the province. Young larva feed on bract tissue resulting in brown, sticky … at the back of the head. The larva burrow into the head to feed on developing seeds.

**Lygus bug** nymphs continue to be present around the province. They are similar to the adult lygus bug but are green and lack wings.

The optimal time to control both these insects is at **R-5.1**.

### Disease

**Rust** has developed and the **uredinia** stage is present in the North Central portion of the province. Uredinia can be found on both the upper-side and underside of leaves, and can be rubbed off easily often leaving a 'streaky' appearance when agitated. Pustule coverage is generally greater on the underside of the leaves. A fungicide application is likely warranted when average disease severity reaches 1 percent on the upper four, fully expanded leaves prior to or during bloom (R5). Fungicide applications after bloom have not proven to impact yield. For this reason many of the earlier fields will not require application. Continue to monitor for rust as it may spread quickly in idea conditions.

**Sclerotinia** development still seems to be slow. In all regions of the province basal rot is present and in the south central portion a couple of heads are demonstrating symptoms of sclerotinia head rot. Continue to monitor for sclerotinia as moisture arrives throughout the province.

### **Limiting Factors** Insects and Drought

Rust uredinia on the upper surface of a leaf. Control is not necessary until the upper 4 leaves are 1% infected.

Banded Sunflower Moth larva have started to feed on the outer bracts and have migrated into the sunflower head.

Sunflowers finished bloom are past the economical stage for rust and insect control. Continue to monitor for head rot.