

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

*"Flowering is expected to begin soon. Downy Mildew infestations continues to increase whereas sclerotinia appears to be lower."*

## Report 7

Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011

### Staging

Early fields are at **R-3 to R-4**, which is when the bud elongates more than 2.0cm above the nearest leaf, and the occasional inflorescence has begun to open. Later fields are progressing and are at **V-14 to R-1**.

### Insects

**Lygus bugs** and **Banded Sunflower Moth** emergence is underway. Sticky trap monitoring for banded sunflower moth has indicated that numbers is relatively low and that emergence is likely still in the early stages. As noted last week, both of these insects are not a problem at the current crop stage, and the optimum time for insecticide control is **R-5.1**. The economic threshold for lygus bug is one adult *Lygus* per nine heads. For banded sunflower moth the economic threshold is 1 adult moth per 100 plants.

**Sunflower Bud Moth** larvae have started to hatch. The adults deposit eggs on the terminals of immature sunflowers, the receptacle of mature sunflowers and in leaf axils. The hatched larvae begin to tunnel creating the characteristic clue of black frass (insect excrement) surrounding the entrance hole. Although activity is noticeable, Sunflower Bud Moth does not usually cause economic damage and there are no control options available.

### Disease

**Sunflower Rust** development appears to have been slowed by the current heat wave. On further advanced fields there has been no sign of pustules on the upper leaves.

**Downy Mildew** continues to infect plants despite a dry July. This may be because many fields are still wet under the dry top layer and since there is a new race of Downy Mildew able to overcome commonly used sources of resistance in DMR varieties. The disease produces symptoms which include a lighter green color along veins on leaves and a thickened, club like root. Some fields have up to 15% infection of plants. There are no control options for later infection of downy mildew. If you have instances of DM greater than 10%, contact me to collect plant samples to have the race identified.

**Sclerotinia Basal Rot** is at low levels in fields and no instances of mid-stalk rot have been noted yet.

### Limiting Factors Disease



Frass surrounding the entrance hole of Sunflower Bud Moth on the underside of a sunflower head.



The R-4 stage of sunflower development where the inflorescence begins to open and the immature ray flowers are visible.



Downy Mildew infections continue to increase across the province.