

Sunflower CROP REPORT

“While some spraying for rust has taken place in the Western region, producers in the Central region are monitoring the progress of infection in their fields - which may or may not develop into economical levels.”

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 8

Crop Stage

R-1 to R-3. Late seeded fields (after June 6), V-10 to early R-1. Warmer, drier soils in the *Western* region last week, 16-19°C. In the *Central* region, 11-14°C.

Weeds

Moderate to heavy weed densities found in some fields. Green Foxtail, Lamb’s quarters, Ragweed, Red Root Pigweed and Wild Mustard among most common.

Insects

Lygus bugs being spotted in a few fields. Confection sunflowers are susceptible to damage by lygus throughout the reproductive stages. Feeding by lygus causes Kernel brown spot which causes the seed to taste bitter. Since processors often discount at only 0.5% damage, thresholds for lygus are quite low.

Sunflower Bud Moth being found in 50% of fields surveyed in *Central* region. Areas affected include both the developing bud and stem (at leaf axils).

Diseases

Rust is being sprayed for in the *Western region* before infection reaches upper leaves. Many producers with low levels in their fields at this time are hoping to hold off on spraying until flowering (R-5).

Leaf diseases affecting the lower leaves is being found in some fields across the province. Although it may look discouraging at first these diseases mainly affect the lower/middle leaves and rarely cause any economical concern.

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Weeds and Disease.

Scouting Images



Ragweed leaves - (L) False ragweed aka Marsh Elder (R) Giant Ragweed



Lygus Bug - look for the distinctive 'V' or triangle on the its upper backside.



Leaf Disease - often irregularly shaped brown necrotic spotting and yellow halos.