

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

*" Many fields are starting show symptoms of drought stress. Lygus bug nymphs are emerging, which corresponds to flowering in early planted fields."*

## Report 8

## Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Staging

Flowering has began in earlier fields, and some are approaching **R-5.2**. Later fields are progressing in the heat and filling in the rows. Drought stress is evident in north central and in eastern areas of the province.

### Insects

**Lygus bug** nymphs are in fields. The nymphs are similar to the adults, but lack wings and are green. Continue to monitor for lygus populations in sunflower fields. **Banded Sunflower Moth** numbers are being monitored using pheromone traps across the province. Numbers continue to be below the economic threshold.

Distorted heads can be found in many fields across the province. The distortion can be attributed to feeding by **Sunflower Midge larvae**. The larvae initially feed on margins of the head between the bracts surrounding the head. Presence of the larvae causes scarring at the base of the bracts. Midge are often restricted to field margins or small portions of the fields. Economic losses are minimal, and no control options are available.

**Sunflower Seed Weevils** may start to emerge soon, but have not been noticed yet. Numbers have been low in recent years. The adults lay their eggs inside the seed coat of developing seeds. The adults are 2.5 to 3 mm long and covered with reddish-orange, oval scales.

### Disease

**Sclerotinia** continues to be in low pressures in sunflower fields. Mid-stalk rot is in the south-central portion of the province, but very low in incidence. Basal rot is below 5% incidence in all fields surveyed.

**Sunflower Rust** is only evident in the western portion of the province; but incidence is also low. Rust is developing in North Dakota, and if moisture increases it could develop quickly in Manitoba.

**Verticillium** causes necrosis (death) between the main leaf veins with yellow margins. The necrotic tissue is very distinctive from the healthy green veins. Verticillium has been found in all areas of the province. Many oilseed varieties contain resistance to Verticillium, however a new strain of the disease has been identified that can overcome this resistance. There are no other control options for the disease.

### Limiting Factors Drought and Insects



Distorted sunflower head caused by feeding of Sunflower Midge larvae.



Verticillium Wilt in the advanced stages. Tissue necrosis between healthy veins.



Pollinators are busy in flowering fields. Bee-friendly; pay attention to timing and insecticide choices.