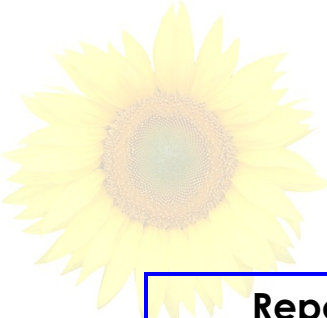




MB Sunflower Crop Report



***" Plants are growing well in the heat and have started to fill in the rows.
Early infection of Sunflower Rust has been found in Manitoba."***

Report 5

Friday, July 8th 2011

Staging

With the arrival of heat, sunflowers have developed extensively through the last week. Fields planted in early May, **V-12 to R-1**. Fields planted in late May/early June **V-6 to V-8**.

Weeds

The warm weather has dried many fields up sufficiently to allow for herbicide application, but many crops and weeds have grown past the optimum time for herbicide application. In crop tillage is progressing in many areas, resulting in excellent weed control. Sunflowers are starting to fill in well

Insects

Adult Sunflower Beetle have been observed, but in low numbers. It seems that Cruiser Maxx is keeping populations low. It is important to continue to monitor for them, especially in fields where seed was not treated with Cruiser Maxx. The beetles will feed and lay eggs throughout June. Eggs will hatch within a week of being layed and larvae will feed throughout July.

Grasshoppers are feeding in fields in the southern and western regions of the province. Despite some defoliation, they will not cause economic damage until causing 25% defoliation of the plant.

Disease

Downy Mildew continues to appear in all regions of the province causing chlorosis and stunting of the plants.

Sunflower Rust is developing in the western and southern regions of the province. Currently the disease is the aecial stage, and is not yet initiating the cinnamon-brown uredial pustules. Warm temperatures and moisture (rain or dews) favor infection. Monitor fields diligently looking for yellow blotches on the upper leaf surface and orange uredia on the lower leaf surface.

Sclerotinia Basal Rot and wilt has developed in fields in the northern and western regions. Continue to monitor carefully for development and spread.



Sunflower Rust uredia on the lower leaf surface. Not yet producing the cinnamon brown pustules.



Migratory Grasshoppers are starting to feed on sunflower crops in the southern and western regions. They should not cause economic damage.



Sclerotinia Basal Rot causes brown lesions at the soil line and may be covered with white mycelia.