

MB Sunflower Crop Report



"Monitoring for Banded Sunflower Moth and Sunflower Moth began last week in six locations across Manitoba."

Report 7 Monday, July 12, 2010

Staging V-10 to R-2 (Fig. 1). Sunflowers are advancing fast with the heat.

Weeds Weed control operations have wrapped up and as the crop canopy develops, sunflowers become more competitive and newly emerging weeds are not a concern. However, weeds such as Canada Thistle, Wild Mustard and Biennial Wormwood which were not controlled are very competitive with sunflowers.

Insects Ragweed Plant Bug (Fig. 2) and Lygus Bug are both being found in sunflower fields. Proper identification of these two insects is essential when scouting, particularly when deciding whether an insecticide application is necessary. The Ragweed Plant bug is being found at higher levels but it is not known to be economical and therefore is important not to confuse with Lygus. Ragweed plant bugs are smaller, solid black in color and move very fast.

Grasshopper nymphs (Fig 3.) and thistle caterpillar are also being found in sunflower fields. Defoliation by grasshopper varies but is generally higher around the headlands. Spraying of just the headlands is commonly done to reduce damage by grasshopper.

In collaboration with MAFRI, monitoring of Banded Sunflower Moth (BSM) and Sunflower Moth (SM) began last week. Pheromone traps will be checked weekly at six locations across the province to monitor the emergence of these insects. BSM overwinter here and emerges from local overwintering sites. SM arrives from regions in south-central US but does not always reach Manitoba.

Disease Over the past two weeks, rust has been found in 62% of fields surveyed. The severity of rust infection appears to be less than previous years. Few fields have been observed with rust infection reaching the middle and upper leaves. None the less, it is still important to scout and monitor disease development from now until the end of flowering. *Please refer to the attached document on "Identification and Management of Sunflower Rust".*

Limiting Factors None



Fig. 1 At R-2, the bud is < 1" from the nearest leaf. At R-3, bud is >1" from nearest leaf.



Fig 2. Ragweed Plant Bug, not known to be economical. Photo Credit: Dr. John Gavloski, MAFRI



Fig 3. Grasshopper nymph.