

MB Sunflower Crop Report

"Rainfall has been above average and heat units below average across most of Manitoba. Sunflower seeding was approximately 10 percent complete at the beginning of the week."

Friday June 10, 2011

Intro.

The Surveillance Survey is underway for the 2011 season. Although excess moisture has decreased sunflower acres, this last week of sunshine has allowed for many acres to be seeded. The earliest seeding dates reported are May 6 and May 8, both in the Central region of the province. The average seeding date was approximately May 14th last year. Crop staging: V-E to V-2.

Going forward, the opinion is that more oils will be seeded during the next week. Deciding how late to plant is a question of past experience, land condition for the following year, crop insurance and market opportunities. Crop insurance deadline is June 10 for full coverage, and June 15 for reduced coverage. New crop prices are strong.

If you are still planning on seeding, a few things to keep in mind include

- Target a shallower seedling depth of 1.5" for faster emergence. There should be no issue with having adequate moisture.
- Plant at slightly higher populations, such as 20-22,000 plants/ac for oilseeds. This allows for quicker drydown.
- Ensure even plant spacing between plants within the row.

Insects

Sunflower fields should be monitored for cutworms and wireworms. There are 3 species of cutworms. Scouting should begin as soon as plants emerge, and fields should be checked at least twice per week looking for cut off plants. If you suspect cutworm activity, dig around the plant to see if you can find any larvae. If you have more than 25-30 % stand reduction, chemical control may be warranted. Applications are more successful in the evening since they actively feed at night. If you find larvae and are interested as to what species it is, contact Claire at 750-2555, and we will assess the species and stage.

Hail damage is common across the province; take care to differentiate between hail damage and insect defoliation.

Weeds

Light to moderate weed pressures was observed in fields where in crop tillage was practiced. Moderate to heavy weed pressures where conservation tillage was practiced. Wild buckwheat, green foxtail, and stinkweed were among the most commonly found weeds.

Limiting Factors Excess moisture



Figure 1. Cutworm defoliation with cutworm curled to left of plant.



Figure 2. Redbacked and dark-sided cutworms



Figure 3. Hail damage on sunflower plant.