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## Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 2

Crop Stage

Crops range from V-E to V-2 with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> leaves showing. Cool growing conditions last week limited crop growth. Soil temperatures range from 11-15°C.

Weeds

Moderate to heavy densities of wild buckwheat (1-6 leaf) and/or quackgrass observed in some fields.

Insects

Cutworms continue to be a problem and appear to have a presence in most fields across the province. Although there are several species of cutworms that can occur in sunflower fields, dingy cutworm seems the most prevalent this year in many fields. Dingy cutworms are primarily leaf feeders and do not cut plants as much as some other cutworm species, but can cause heavy defoliation when numbers are high in a field. Cutworm populations appear to be higher in tilled fields. Spraying and/or reseeding continues to take place.

If spraying, it should be done as late in the day as possible (cutworms are night feeders) and efficacy should be assessed 4-5 days following application. Allow time for variability in feeding patterns due to moulting (skin shedding) when larvae are inactive.

Diseases

None observed. Producers should not be alarmed if they see slight chlorosis (yellowing) of leaves in the field (see picture below). Chlorosis spotting could be associated with the cool weather experienced last week and is not of economic importance. It should not be mistaken for Downey Mildew (severe chlorosis and stunting with white fungal growth on underside of leaf in high humidity.)

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Insects (cutworms).

Scouting Images



**Crop Staging** V-2 with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> leaves showing.



**Chlorosis** Minor chlorosis of leaves.



**Cutworms** Different species and stages of cutworms.