

MB Sunflower Crop Report

"Seeding continued this week with additional acres of oils being seeded. Cutworms were found in 50% of fields. Monitoring should continue into early July."

Report 2

Friday, June 17 2011

Staging

Fields planted in mid-May are at the V-4 stage. Fields plants at the end of May are at the V-E to V-2 stage. Crop growth delayed due to wet and cool conditions. Seeding continued this week with more acres of oils being planted.

Insects

Keep scouting for cutworms and wireworms. Cutworms feeding continues. The larvae found this week were 1 to 1 1/4" in length. This is approximately the 3rd or 4th instar of approximately 6. Cool temperatures and excessive moisture may delay cutworm development and prolong larvae feeding. Continue to monitor for cutworms until the larvae are 1 1/4" to 1 1/5" long.

The Economic Threshold is 1 larvae per square foot or 25-30% stand reduction at five locations across the field. Control options include Pounce/Perm-Up/Ambush/Lorsban/Pyrinex/Nufos and Citadel. Applications are best made in the evening. There are no control options for wireworms; but monitoring is still important for future crop decisions.

Weeds

Weeds continue to emerge in flushes with each rain and excessive moisture in many areas of the province has delayed weed control. Moderate to high weed pressures appear in fields where zero tillage is practiced, and moderate where conventional tillage is conducted. The first four to six weeks following emergence is the critical time for weed control. Keeping crops weed free during this period will result in increased yield potential. This week redroot pigweed and wild buckwheat were the most prominent weeds.

Disease

Downy Mildew was present in the South Central portion of the province. Incidence was really low since most seed is treated, however seed treatment does not protect against foliar infection. The disease is characterized by discolouration on the upper leaf surface and white, cottony masses on the lower leaf surface. Excess moisture is causing chlorosis (yellowing) of the leaves. This yellowing of New leaves continue to grow, and with some heat should recover.

Limiting Factors Excess moisture and Cutworms



Cutworm larvae grow and continue feeding till about 1 1/2" long



Downy Mildew causes discolouration of the upper leaf surface and white cottony masses on the lower leaf surface.



Excess moisture causing chlorosis of leaves.