



Sunflower CROP REPORT

Note: Please see attached region map to become familiar with reporting regions. It is important to understand that although conditions, thus far, may only have been observed in a particular region, it is likely that similar conditions may also exist or develop in other regions too.

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report 3

Crop Stage

Crops across the province vary from V-E to V-6. Slightly more advanced in the *Western* and *South Central* regions. Soil temperatures this week are in the 17-21°C range. Hot and humid weather conditions.

Weeds

Moderate to heavy densities of wild mustard and wild oats observed. Control of wild mustard is critical as it can cause significant yield losses if not controlled and should be treated before the crop exceeds 15 inches in height (approx. V-8). Wild sunflowers have been seen in the *South Central* region. Wild sunflowers can play host to rust infection and should be controlled.

Insects

Spraying for sunflower beetles has been reported in the *Central* region. Adult beetles have been feeding and laying eggs throughout June and young larvae emerge to feed on the leaves which can cause significant defoliation. Control is warranted when defoliation approaches 25-30%.

Cutworms are still present and continue to be sprayed for.

Diseases

Downey Mildew symptoms have been observed in the *Western* region. Symptoms include stunting, chlorosis (yellowing) and in high humidity, white growth on undersides of leaf. Leaves may also be wrinkled. Although some resistant varieties are grown, no fungicides are available. These symptoms are pending confirmation.

Early stages of rust infection have been detected in *Northern Minnesota/North Dakota*. This can suggest an increased likelihood of a severe rust outbreak. Since spores are easily wind blown, chances are signs will appear in Manitoba with time. It is important to control volunteers in fields previously sown to sunflowers.

Current Crop Limiting Factors

Disease, Insects and Weeds.

Scouting Images



Downey Mildew Symptoms



White fungal growth on back of leaves



Wild (l) vs. Cultivated Sunflower (r)