

MB Sunflower Crop Report

"Cutworms continue to spark concerns across the province. The first observable stage of rust has developed north of Winnipeg."

Friday June 8, 2012

Crop

Crop staging is from V-E to V-4. Variable emergence observed in early planted fields. This can be attributed to planting into cool soils. Emergence and crop development progressed quickly this week under the warm temperatures.

Insects

Cutworm damage continues to be sporadic across the province. The warm weather experienced this week has helped early planted fields to grow out of the 'at risk stages'. For late planted fields it continues to be difficult to assess cutworm populations and damage, especially when plants are still emerging.

Cutworm larvae develop through 5 instar stages. Early instar cutworms are the most damaging since they have the most feeding yet to do. If the larvae are numerous, small, and causing damage approaching the economic threshold (1 larva per square foot or 25 to 30% stand reduction), continue to monitor fields to determine if an insecticide application is warranted.

Wireworms

Wireworm damage is evident in early planted fields where emergence is patchy due to planting into cold soil or planting too deep. No rescue treatments are available, but the majority of seed imported from the US is pre-treated with an insecticide that protects seedlings from wireworm feeding. It is important to scout for wireworms as an indication for following crops as larva can survive in the soil for 4 years.

Disease

No Downy Mildew has been observed. This disease develops under cool, wet conditions.

The first observable sign of rust (pycnia) has been observed north of Winnipeg on the upper side of cotyledons. It occurs as a small yellow-orange spot (1/4" or less) on the top side of cotyledons or lower leaves. It is too early to predict how quickly rust will develop, as infection and disease development is dependent on weather conditions. It is not completely unheard of to have rust this early in the season. Remain watchful for the disease.

Weeds

Early fields are approaching time to applying herbicides. Monitor crop and weed development to time herbicide applications to minimize crop injury and maximize weed control.

Limiting Factor Insects



Figure 1. Wireworms can be 1 to 2" in length and vary in color from copper to yellowy white.



Figure 2. Crop staging: V-4 with 5th and 6th leaves showing.



Figure 3. Rust pycnia is the first observable sign of rust. Disease development is dependent on future weather conditions.