



Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report



*"For a second year in a row, the early stages of **Sunflower rust** have been found in Manitoba fields. Monitoring for disease progression as the growing season continues is essential for proper management. Stay tuned to crop reports for updates."*

Report 3

Monday, June 14, 2010

Staging

Fields planted in late April, V-4 to V-6. Fields planted in mid to late May, from V-E to V-2. Crop growth delayed due to cool temperatures.

Weeds

Excessively wet soils in many parts of the province has delayed weed control which has resulted in moderate to high weed densities. Sunflowers are poor competitors early in the season and the first four to six weeks after emergence are critical for weed control. Keeping crops weed free during this period will result in increased yield potential.

Insects

Cutworm feeding continues, the larvae found last week were 1 to 1 ¼" in length. This corresponds to the 3rd/4th instar stages out of approximately six. Delayed cutworm development and crop growth from cool temperatures and excessively wet soils may result in increased stand reduction. Producers should continue monitoring for cutworm until larval stages reach 1¼ to 1½" at which point the majority of feeding will be complete.

Disease

The early, aecial stages of Sunflower rust were found and confirmed last week on cultivated sunflower crops in Manitoba. Infection was present on cotyledons and true leaves in advanced crops. This is two weeks earlier than last year. The early appearance of rust increases the risk of a severe outbreak and allows for multiple infections throughout the growing season. Fortunately, this disease has become more manageable in Manitoba over the past couple of years. A full registration of Headline® is pending and is expected by the end of June. If this is delayed, NSAC is prepared to submit for an emergency use registration. Stay tuned to crop reports for updates on disease progression and how best to manage it. There is a lot of research out of North Dakota on management of rust with fungicides.

Limiting factors

Weeds, Insects and Excess Moisture.



Cutworms: Dark sided cutworm in 3rd instar (1 inch).



Rust: Early rust infection on true leaf. Orange lesion surrounded by a yellow halo.



Mutant Sunflower: 3 cotyledons and 3 leaves.