

# MB Sunflower Crop Report



*"Included in this week's report is a **Survey Map of Sunflower Rust** displaying where early infection has been found in Manitoba. "*

## Report 4 Monday, June 21, 2010

Statistic Canada's original report on April 26 pegged Canadian sunflower acres at 170,000. A second report is expected June 23 with acres expected to decrease from the original estimate reflecting unseeded acres and losses from excess moisture.

**Staging** Fields planted in late April, V-6 to V-10. Fields planted in mid May to early June, V-2 to V-4. Excessively wet/cool growing conditions are to blame for crop staging being approx. 2 weeks behind normal. Overall, the sunflower crop has been fairing relatively well through the wet conditions.

The average planting date in the Western region was May 18 (Range May 12 to June 2). The Central region got in an average of a week earlier with the average date being May 11 (Range April 22 to May 26).

**Insects** As crop staging advances and cutworms reach the end of their larval stages, crop damage becomes less of a concern and control is likely not warranted.

Adult Sunflower Beetle have been observed, they will be feeding and laying eggs throughout June. Eggs will hatch within a week of being layed and larvae will feed throughout July.

**Disease** The early stages of sunflower rust continue to show up in all areas of the province. The biggest determinant of disease progression will be weather conditions, with temperatures between 13° and 29°C and free moisture being favorable (which we have lots of). Once initial infection has appeared, only temperature plays a role in the appearance of uredial pustules which takes 8-14 days. Scout fields diligently and be aware of rust infection.

Downey Mildew is showing up at very low levels in some fields.

**Limiting factors** Excess Moisture for the third consecutive week.



Bare patches from cutworm. None were found in this field, suggesting larval stage is com-



1st visible stage of Sunflower Rust: Pycnia on upper surface of leaf.



Aecia: 3D cups occur directly below pycnia and give rise to uredial pustules.