NATIONAL SUNFLOWER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Manitoba Sunflower Crop Report

"Cutworms and Wireworms being found in 50% of fields, increased occurrence in the Western Region where zero and reduced tillage is a contributing factor."

Report 2 **Monday, June 7, 2010**

Crop staging from V-E to V-4. Variable emergence observed in fields planted May 22 and later.

Cutworms are being found in 50% of fields, particularly in SW Manitoba where fields under zero or reduced tillage with high residue have a greater risk for cutworm infestation. It can be difficult to assess cutworm populations and damage particularly when plants are still emerging and because they feed at night. A method used in North Dakota involves a sprayer equipped ATV to spray an insecticide at nightfall in strips and observe the next morning for dead cutworms. Recommended thresholds are 1 larva per square foot or 25-30% stand reduction.

Wireworms are also being found in 50% of fields, again with increased occurrence in SW MB where zero and reduced tillage is a contributing factor. There are no rescue treatments available but the majority of sunflower seed is imported from the US and comes treated with an insecticide (Cruiser®). The systemic insecticide protects seedlings through contact of the treated seed and/or ingestion of seedling. It is still important to scout for wireworms as an indication for next year.

Following last week's rainfall, overland flooding has caused losses in the Eastern and Interlake regions as well as parts of the South West.

The most common weed seedlings emerging in sunflower fields which escaped pre-emerge herbicide applications include volunteer cereals, volunteer canola, wild mustard and Canada thistle.

CROP LIMITING FACTORS Insects and Excess Moisture

Wilting and dying seedling damaged by wireworms.

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

Yellowing of leaves from excess moisture.