



Sunflower CROP REPORT

"Rainfall amounts vary between 50 to 150 mm from May 21 to May 30 across Southern Manitoba. Locally higher, with numerous reports of up to 200 mm of accumulated rainfall."

Introductory Report

Monday, May 31st, 2010

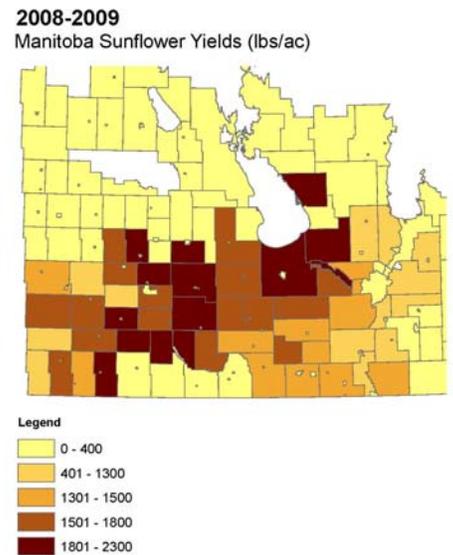
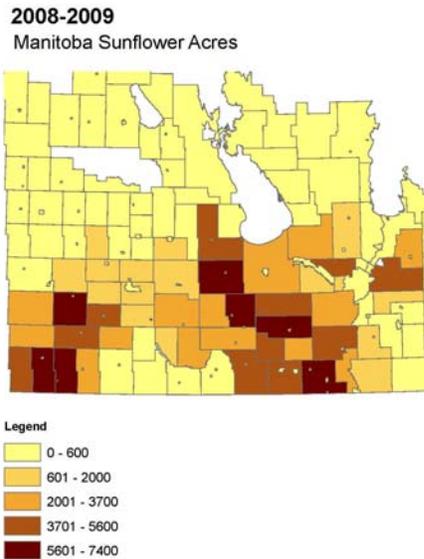
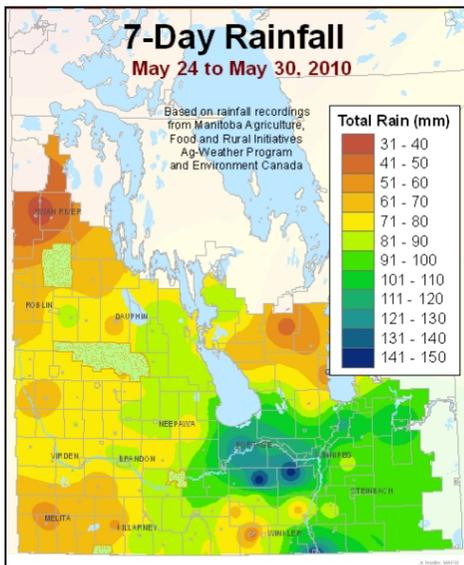
The 2010 growing season was off to a great start up until last week, rainfall has resulted in localized flooding and saturated soils. Sunflower growers were particularly optimistic following last year's wet, late spring. The average planting date of sunflower fields in Manitoba is approx. May 14, ten days earlier than last year (May 24). The earliest seeding dates (late April) were reported from the Eastern and Central regions. Some areas in the South-west which were caught between rains are not completed seeding at this point. Crop staging: V-E to V-4.

This week will likely be spent assessing damage from excess moisture and making decisions on re-seeding if the fields ever dry up. Unfortunately these decisions parallel last year, when field operations were still in full force well into June. The decrease in yield potential after late May varies between crops and will be a major factor along with input costs and growing conditions when deciding what (if any) re-seeding will be done.

For those farmers fortunate enough to have received the lower rainfall amounts, sunflower fields should be monitored for cutworms and wireworms. Both were observed and reported in fields last week. Weed populations were low last week following pre-emergent burnoff applications, but are expected to flourish following the recent rain and warm temperatures called for this week. Also keep an eye out for Downey Mildew— cool, water saturated soil greatly favors development of this disease.

Surveying and crop reporting is underway for the 2010 season, while we are off to a wet start—I hope that we can still see a successful growing season and sunflower crop.

CROP LIMITING FACTOR Excess Moisture.



Source: Manitoba Ag-Weather Program (MAFRI)

Source: Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC)