

MB Sunflower Crop Report

"Sunflowers continue to mature around the province. Rhizopus Head Rot has infected fields in the south central portion of the province".

Report 13

Friday, September 2nd 2011

Staging

Most later fields have finished flowering and ray petals are being dropped (R-6) and some yellowing along the shoulder of the stem is evident. The back of the heads of earlier seeded fields continue to yellow and bracts have started to turn brown.

Insects

The economic stage for insecticide control is past for all areas of the province. High populations of adult lygus bugs in canola fields in the south central area of the province have been reported. The adults have wings and can easily migrate into neighboring sunflower fields. Sunflower seeds that have turned color are generally thought to be too hard for lygus bug damage to occur; however seeds in the center of the head may still be damaged.

Banded Sunflower Moth larva is still active in many fields around the province. The larva continue to mature, turning from red to green. The green larva is the most mature larval stage, and feeding should end soon as the larva drop to the ground and spin cocoons to overwinter in the soil.

Disease

Disease pressure remains low across the province for sclerotinia. Basal and midstalk infections have remained low throughout the season, and development of head rot is weather dependent.

Rust has developed on the upper leaves and the bracts in the central and western areas of the province. These higher incidences are in fields with varieties that are relatively less tolerant to rust than other commercial varieties. It is past the application window for rust, and yield should not be negatively affected by onset of the disease.

In the south central portion of the province, Rhizopus Head Rot developing throughout fields. The disease is distinguished from Sclerotinia Head Rot by a dark brown, peppery appearance of tissues in the receptacle, fluffy growth with small black fungal bodies. The disease is associated with wounds.

Phomopsis is developing across the province. The disease causes a large tan to light brown lesion that typically surround the leaf petiole. The lesion girdles the stem causing lodging.

Limiting Factors Disease



Although many fields have high infection of rust, it is past damaging stage and should not affect seed development.



Rhizopus Head Rot starts as a brown, watery spots on the receptacle, and turns the head brown and mushy. Back fruiting bodies form within the head.



Banded Sunflower Moth larva continue to eat sunflower kernels. The larva create one hole in the hole, and their frass can be seen on the plant head.