

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

*"The backs of sunflower heads continue to yellow and bracts are starting to turn brown at the tips as the crop matures quickly in the heat."*

## Report 14

## Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Staging

Fields are continuing to mature quickly in the heat. The average stage is R-8. As this stage, the back of the head is yellow but the bracts remain green. As the plants approach physiological maturity, the bracts will turn yellow and brown. It is at this stage that the seeds are fully developed.

### Insects

Insect activity is low on average throughout the province. Banded Sunflower Larva are still present across the province. The larva are mostly at the most mature instar stage, and pinkish to red in color and approximately 0.44 inch (11mm) long. It can be expected that they will soon drop to the ground and spin cocoons in the soil to overwinter.

Lygus bugs are still in fields, however the ability of the insect to damage seeds is greatly reduced as the shell continues to harden and dry down.

### Disease

Disease pressure continues to remain low across the province. Incidences of head rot are increasing, however the weather is predicted to remain warm and dry. Rhizopus head rot also continues to increase in all areas, but is still sporadic within a field.

The incidence of stem diseases are increasing. Phomopsis continues to pop up around the province. The infection starts on the margins on lower leaves as a brown necrotic (brown and dead) area bordered by a chlorotic (yellow) margin. The infection spreads down through the veins to the petiole and finally to the stem. The stem lesions are large, tan to light brown in color and typically surround the leaf petioles. The plants are prone to lodging.

Phoma Black Stem is across the province also. The stem lesions are also centered around a petiole, but are smaller and darker in comparison to phomopsis.

### Limiting Factors Disease



As sunflowers approach physiological maturity, the back of the head turns yellow. R-8 is characterized by a yellow head but green bracts.



Phomopsis infections start as a necrotic area with a chlorotic margin. The infection spreads down the petiole to infect the stem.



Blackbird predation continues in oilseed and confectionary fields. The hulls can often be found sitting on the back of the head.