MB Sunflower Crop Report

"The last week of wet cool weather has provided good disease development conditions."

Wednesday, August 27th, 2014

STAGING

In areas with the earliest planting dates sunflowers are staged around R-7 to R-8, while areas which seeded closer to the crop insurance deadline are in about a R-5.4 to R-5.6 stage.

INSECTS

Lygus bug (Fig. 1) nymphs and adults continues to be found, as counts in some areas are at or above economic threshold. (1 adult per 9 heads) Damage can occur until the seed shells have hardened sufficiently for the insect to no longer penetrate the shell, which starts at the R6-stage.
In some fields, a second application may be warranted.

DISEASE

Sunflower Rust ( )

Over the last 10 days we have observer very good conditions for the development of sunflower rust. We have seen it move rapidly from the bottom leaves to the top 4 leaves and onto the bracts. Stands that are still in the R-5 to early R-6 stage can have yields affected if not protected by a fungicide.

Sclerotinia (Fig. 3) is increasing across the province due to the last 7-10 days of moisture. Most fields have had or will have at least one application of fungicide for control of Sclerotinia.
The favourable weather which has included morning dews and free moisture that remains on the back of the head for more than 3 hours has been ideal for potential disease development. In the late seeded stands a second application may be warranted. Consult your local retailer and the product label for details.

As the crop continues to progress, now is the time to consider whether to **Desiccate** your sunflower crop. Desiccation is used to quicken dry-down of sunflower heads. Desiccation is effective before a killing frost in enhancing head dry-down but should not be applied before the back of the head turns yellow.

Photos

Figure 1. The economic threshold for lygus bug in sunflower is 1 adult lygus bug (above) per 9 sunflower heads.

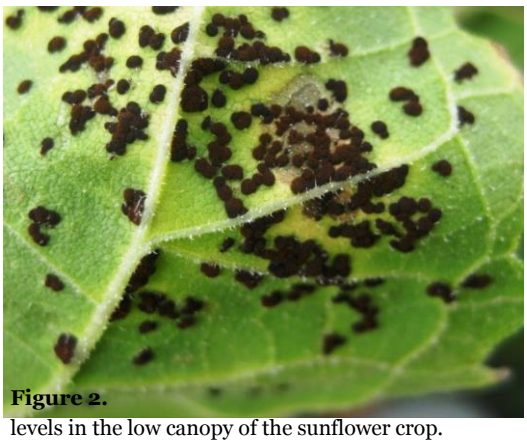

Figure 2. levels in the low canopy of the sunflower crop.

Figure 3. Scout for developing head rot to determine incidence and if desiccation will be required to prevent significant losses.