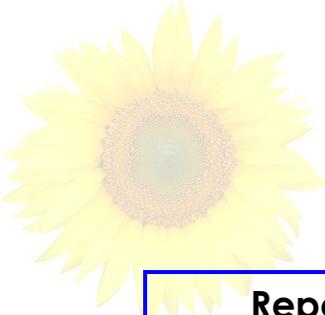




MB Sunflower Crop Report



"Sunflower crops are developing well across the province despite weather conditions inhibiting field operations."

Report 3

Friday, June 24 2011

Staging

Crops across the province are growing well in the heat. Sunflower stages range from V-E to V-6; crops are more advanced in the Eastern and North Central regions.

Insects

Cutworm damage is less of a concern as crop staging advances and cutworms reach the end of their larval stages. If cutworm damage is evident, control is likely not warranted since feeding should end soon.

Weeds

Weed control has been hindered in most regions due to excess moisture limiting field work. Weed density was light where conventional tillage and in-crop tillage have been performed. In minimum-till fields weed pressure is medium to high. Weed control is important during early vegetative growth to minimize competition and maintain yield potential. Barnyard grass and lady's thumb (smartweed) were the most common weeds this week. Both these weed species grow well under wet conditions. Many weed control options are available.

Disease

Downy Mildew symptoms have been observed at very low levels in some fields in the South Central and Eastern regions. Symptoms include discolouration on the upper leaf surface, white cottony masses on the lower leaf surface and stunting.

No sunflower rust pustules have been observed yet, but the current weather conditions could be very conducive to infection. It is worth scouting diligently and being aware of disease initiation. The biggest determinant of disease development will be upcoming weather conditions.

Limiting Factors Excess moisture and Weeds



Lady's Thumb or Smartweed thrives in wet conditions and can cause significant yield loss



Downy Mildew symptoms include discolouration of the upper leaf surface, white cottony masses on the lower leaf surface and stunting



First visible stage of rust development; pycnia on upper leaf surface