

# MB Sunflower Crop Report

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Friday, July 5 2013

## Crop

Crop staging is from V-6 to V-12. Crop development has accelerated in the heat. Significant rainfall limited progress in the South Western regions with some crop loss observed.

## Weeds

Spraying/in crop tillage is in progress in most fields and should wrap up next week. Early season control is necessary—once the sunflowers develop a shade canopy, most weeds will not be able to compete.

## Insects

Sunflower Beetle has been observed in some fields, however levels of economic concern have not been found.

Grasshoppers are also causing low levels of defoliation across the province. Damage is typically most severe when the weather is hot and dry, however grasshoppers rarely cause economic damage (25%) in sunflowers. If significant damage is being observed, field perimeter spraying is encouraged, however only if the timing is accurate and hopper numbers are high.

## Disease

Downy Mildew has been observed in some fields in small patches.

It is important to continue to monitor for sclerotinia and rust as a heavy dew provides adequate environment for infection to occur.

Sclerotinia Basal Rot and wilt has not been observed to date. Continue to monitor carefully for development and spread.

Sunflower Rust pustules have not yet been noted. Continue to monitor for the brown pustules as the disease may yet develop if we receive more rains and heavy dews. A fungicide application is most economical when disease severity is 1 percent on the upper four leaves prior to or during flowering. Studies conducted in the U.S.A. have found that fungicide applications at R-6 or later have not demonstrated a positive impact on yield.

## Limiting Factor



**Figure 1. Adult Sunflower Beetle:**  
No economic levels have been observed.



**Figure 2. Sclerotinia basal rot** causes a brown lesion to develop at the soil level. Infection causes the plant to wilt.



**Figure 3. Rust uredinia** are brown pustules on both the upper- and lower- leaf surfaces. The spores can be rubbed off easily.