



MB Sunflower Crop Report

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Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Crop

Crop staging for most areas is from V-2 to V-10 with the exception of the SW part of MB at V-E to V-2.

Weeds

Weed pressure continue to persist. The optimum window for herbicide application in sunflowers is between 2-8 leaf stage. Its important to accurate stage weeds to ensure effective control, weeds exceed the 4-6 leaf stage may be more difficult to control. Consult product labels and the Guide to Crop Protection for proper staging.

Insects

Grasshoppers. NSAC has received calls this past week on grasshopper damage. Most reports indicate edge effect defoliation, however shot holes on leaves have been found throughout a number of fields. There are two main species of grasshoppers that can cause damage in Manitoba; two striped and the migratory grasshopper. The grasshoppers are still very small measuring between 1/4 to 1/2” indicating the nymph stage. See Figure 1.

Economic Threshold— There is no economic threshold established for grasshoppers in sunflowers. The best we can probably do is use defoliation thresholds developed for sunflower beetles – which are 25-30% defoliation. See Figure 2.

Control Options—No insecticides are registered in Canada for grasshoppers in sunflowers. Should control be warranted, contact NSAC’s Agronomist or your local retailer to discuss options.

Disease

The early stages of sunflower rust, **Pycnia**, have been found in the RMs of South Cypress and Rhineland. Staging will continue to be monitored, however at this time a fungicide application is not warranted. The biggest determinant of disease progression will be weather conditions, with temperatures between 13° and 29°C and free moisture. Fungicide options are available for suppression.

Limiting Factor



Figure 1. Lifecycle of a grasshopper.

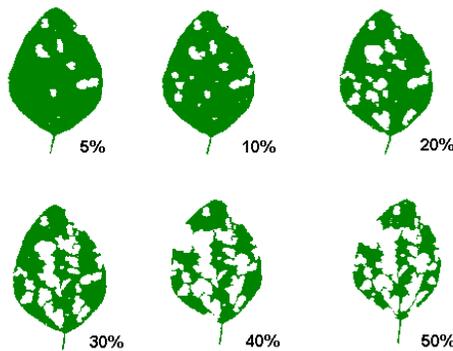


Figure 2. Assessing percentage of defoliation for insects.



Figure 3. This is the earliest visible stage of rust. The bright orange lesion is called pycnia and is found on the upper surface of the leaf.