

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2023

Larvae of armyworms, *Mythimna unipuncta*, sometimes called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. They do not overwinter in the Canadian prairie provinces, but large numbers can potentially migrate in. If conditions are favorable for their survival and reproduction when they arrive, and if natural enemies do not limit population establishment, populations can increase.

Pheromone-baited traps (Fig. 1), which attract the male moths, are established for a 12 week period from early-May until late-July to detect the arrival of populations of armyworms early in the season. The cumulative counts from the traps can not predict what levels of larvae will be, but can be used to determine regions of the province where increased attention for armyworms is recommended when scouting fields of cereals and forage grasses.



Fig. 1. Trap for armyworms



Fig. 2. Armyworm moth

Summary (as of July 29, 2023)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths were set up at 20 locations in Manitoba in 2022.

- Highest counts occurred in traps in the Eastern regions, but some high trap counts also occurred in traps in the Southwest, Central and Interlake region.
- Armyworms were caught in 17 of the 20 traps. Six traps had cumulative counts greater than 100.
- The highest cumulative trap count was 421 from a trap in the Eastern region near Lac du Bonnet.

- Some high levels of armyworm larvae were reported in all regions from late-June until late-July.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba over the trapping period (May 7 to July 29, 2023)

Location	Count
Northwest	
Grandview	0
Russell	0
Southwest	
Stockton	129
Belmont	112
Medora	74
Central	
Lowe Farm	162
Altona	44
Eastern	
Lac du Bonnet	421
Beausejour	231
Ridgeville	89
Interlake	
Teulon	117
Poplarfield	51
Steeprock	48
Arborg	15

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/true-armyworm.html>



Fig. 3. Armyworm larvae

For further information, contact:
 John Gavloski, Extension Entomologist,
 Manitoba Agriculture, Box 1149, Carman,
 Manitoba R0G 0J0 Phone: 204-750-0594 (cell).