

MANITOBA WEEKLY VEGETABLE REPORT



Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Crops Knowledge Centre

Vegetable Report

July 30, 2009

Welcome to the first report of the year. Admittedly it is rather late and somewhat brief but it has been an unusual and trying year thus far for many. The first item of news to address is that this year's report will be pathology-lite as Dr. Philip Northover has moved on to another job in another province, so we no longer have his expertise at our disposal. I shall endeavor to handle pathology issues as they arise in the field but readily admit I am trained as an entomologist so at best I would be a weak pathologist. Philip's contributions will be greatly missed and I do know that the vegetable scouting was one of his favorite aspects of the job while he was here. He truly enjoyed working with the vegetable growers of Manitoba.

General comments

Thus far the weather patterns have been remarkably similar to those experienced in 2004, a very poor growing season. Below normal temperatures and abundant rainfall have slowed the growth of many crops, though in many respects crops are progressing quite nicely and thus far pest problems have been minimal.

Carrots

Scouting this week was minimal as we still determine precisely what fields we will have access to, but we can indicate at least some good news. Aster leafhopper (*Macrostelus quadrilineatus*) numbers are very low again this year, much like 2008. The precise reasons for this are unknown, but we have had little in the way of significant south winds this year that would aid this pest in arriving in Manitoba. In 2008 a significant weather event throughout the US Midwest disrupted the migration into Manitoba and we had a very small population. The lack of south winds blowing these up may also be the root cause for the small populations again this year. There is some suggestion that there may be limited overwintering in Canada, but the past two years would indicate that if this is happening at all in the prairies, it is very minimal.



Aster Leafhopper

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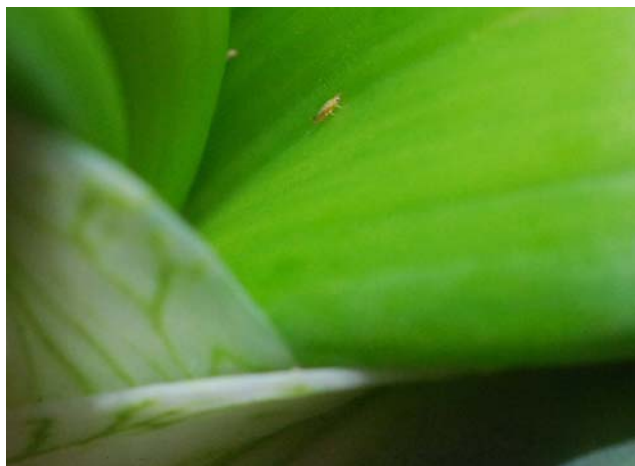
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Crucifers

Aside from early season flea beetle populations that were damaging, it has been a relatively good year thus far from the perspective of the Brassicas. Diamondback moths (*Plutella xylostella*), another migratory pest from the US have had minimal populations, again likely owing to a poor migratory path this year so have not been an issue. Cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) is another migratory pest that we have yet to observe this year. One pest that was significant a few years ago, the imported cabbageworm (or cabbage white butterfly) (*Pieris rapae*) is around, but in very small numbers thus far.

Onions

Onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*) numbers are at their normal levels for this time of year. Most areas tend to have populations that are always present, but at low levels and below the economic threshold. Some problem areas seem to have higher populations, but at least the weather has not been overly conducive to high populations of thrips as they thrive in hot, dry weather – something that has been in short supply this year.



Onion thrips

Sweet Corn

European corn borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) will have been active now for three to four weeks and will continue laying eggs for another couple of weeks. Our experienced growers will know that sprays on a five to seven day schedule work best. It would be much better if we could get the consumer to get past an occasional worm, something that would significantly reduce insecticide applications. By mid-August there should be no further egg laying so sprays could stop around that point. This is not to say there won't be any larvae affecting the corn but, once they begin feeding inside the plant, no treatments will reach them anyway, making those applications wasteful.