

# MANITOBA WEEKLY VEGETABLE REPORT

Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Crops Knowledge Centre

## Vegetable Report

August 06, 2009

### Carrots

Scouting was carried out this week but please remember that we are sampling relatively few fields and what you see in your fields may not reflect what is being discussed here. No symptoms of aster yellows were observed this week, though some aster leafhoppers (*Macrostelus quadrilineatus*) were collected in the sweep net sampling. We collected six (6) and nine (9) leafhoppers in the two fields that were swept (100 – 180o sweeps per field) yielding aster yellows index (AYI) values of 24 and 36, both below the threshold levels for susceptible carrot varieties.

Populations of aster leafhoppers are likely to remain low for the remainder of the season as we simply did not get a large migratory population again this year, similar to what happened in 2008. In 2008 the cause was a very large weather system that passed over the US Midwest just as the leafhoppers should have been making their way to our region. This year is different in the sense that there was no major weather system disrupting the migratory pattern. Instead there simply were not sufficient southerly winds to carry large numbers of the leafhoppers into the region. I certainly wouldn't have expected us to have consecutive years of low populations but it is a pleasant surprise.

Few disease symptoms have been observed this year and only some browning and yellowing of the leaves has been observed and that looks to be consistent with nutrient deficiency more than any disease. This is perhaps not a surprise given the cooler temperatures and above average precipitation.



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## Crucifers

The cabbage butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) numbers appear to be increasing somewhat over the previous week. It is difficult to know whether this will reach substantial numbers as it did a couple of years ago, but it is something to keep an eye on. This butterfly will stay active into September and the larvae can feed beyond the first frost as they are well protected feeding in the tightly wrapped leaves around the head. It is important to get good early control when the larvae are feeding on the outer leaves and before they move towards the head where they are well protected from sprays.



## Onions

Onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*) remain present and generally low in the fields being scouted.

## Sweet Corn

European corn borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) will continue to be active for another week or two and beyond that there will be no new eggs deposited on plants. So sprays should continue for a little longer, but after mid-August are not providing any control.

No corn leaf aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) has yet been observed and in this unusual weather year we may not see many about. It is worthwhile to check the leaves of the corn plants just to be sure as the honeydew the aphids exude can lead to formation of fungus on the heads of plants in heavy infestation.