

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2022

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 30, 2022)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths have been set up at 11 locations in Manitoba in 2022.

- Some moderate counts have occurred in traps in the Eastern and Central regions, with a trap in the Beausejour area having a higher cumulative count.
- Armyworms have been caught in 10 traps so far. Five traps in the Eastern and Central region have caught over 30 armyworm moths.
- The highest cumulative trap count so far is 154 from a trap in the Eastern region near Beausejour. There are some areas in the Eastern and Central regions where looking for

larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses would be good to prioritize.

- Some high levels of armyworm larvae have been reported from the Eastern, southern Interlake and Central regions in late-July.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba over the trapping period (May 1 to July 30, 2022)

Location	Count
Northwest	
Grandview	3
Silver Beach	0
Southwest	
Brandon	24
Brookdale	13
Central	
Rosenfeld	64
Halbstadt	36
Rosebank	18
Eastern	
Beausejour	154
Lac du Bonnet	79
Dominion City	66
Randolph	1

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: 204-745-5668
(office); 204-750-0594 (cell).