Surveillance of Soybean Foliar and Stem Diseases in Manitoba, 2016 -2019

Since 2016, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development and the Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers have surveyed the soybean crop and done visual assessment of seven diseases. Septoria brown spot, bacterial blight and downy mildew are rated on a 0-5 scale to determine severity within fields that show symptoms. White mold (*Sclerotinia*), Phomopsis pod and stem blight, anthracnose and frogeye leaf spot are evaluated on the basis of presence or absence to determine prevalence (% of total fields infested) across the province. The intensity of surveying has varied from year-to-year, based on the seeded acreage of the soybean crop which is the third most widely grown annual field crop after canola and wheat. Numbers of fields surveyed ranged from 66 fields in 2019 to 95 in 2018. While the crop was surveyed twice, at R3 and R6 stages, the data presented below are from the latter stage.

2017 – 2019 were dry throughout most of the growing season and a disease like white mold which thrives under wet conditions has declined since 2016 to the point where none was detected in the 2019 survey. The severity of the three foliar diseases – brown spot, bacterial blight and downy mildew have varied a little but have consistently been <2 which indicates symptoms were confined mostly to the lower crop canopy.