Issue 2 – May 29, 2025 Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

Insects: Populations of **flea beetles** in canola vary across the province. High levels have been reported in some regions. Foliar insecticide applications for flea beetles have started in some regions, including some edge treatments. Seed treatments currently seem to be providing adequate protection for many. There continues to be reports of **cutworms** being noticed in some fields, though economic damage has not yet been reported. **Wireworms** are also being noticed in some fields.

Weeds: Burnoff sprays continue ahead of seeding in the last week and in-crop spraying has started in the earliest seeded cereals. We are starting to see warm season weeds like pigweeds now, be vigilant in scouting for waterhemp as it's starting to show up.

Entomology

Pea Leaf Weevil

This photo of peas with notching to the edges of the leaves was taken near Russell, Manitoba recently. The feeding is caused by a beetle called the pea leaf weevil, *Sitona lineatus*. The feeding to the leaf edges is something the plant will outgrow, and should not be of economic significance. The amount of notching can give us some clue to the size of the pea leaf weevil population in the field though. This can be important because the larval stage feeds on the nitrogen-fixing nodules on the roots of pea and faba bean plants. If the feeding is excessive, the nitrogen-fixing abilities of the plants are reduced.

Foliar insecticides, directed at the adult pea leaf weevils, generally don't work well. It is good to take note of fields where there is a lot of notching from pea leaf weevil though. Seed treatments can help reduce the feeding to the nodules.

Stages of pea leaf weevil



Report compiled by John Gavloski, Kim Brown Entomologist, Weeds Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture <u>Subscribe</u> to the weekly Crop Pest Update







Pea leaf weevil survey: We are once again trying to track the distribution and relative levels of pea leaf weevil, as part of a survey that is being conducted in Manitoba and across the prairies. This can be done by assessing notching to seedlings by the adult weevils. For anyone who is scouting in peas, or wishing to contribute to the survey, recording feeding notches (or lack of) would be most welcome. Aside from knowing relative abundance and range in Manitoba, data would be able to be added to a prairie-wide map for pea leaf weevil. Ten plants are sampled at 5 locations along the field edge. Unless the population is significant, the time required to count notches (either by node or per plant) is quite short.

The survey is performed between the 2nd and 6th node growth stages (late-May to early-June in typical years). This period typically coincides with maximum foliar damage and the peak of pea leaf weevil distribution into primary host crops.

Anyone who is interested in participating in the survey, please contact John Gavloski, and the protocol and data sheet will be sent to you.

If notching for pea leaf weevil is noticed east of its known range in Manitoba (currently found as far east as Fannystelle and Rockwood), please contact John Gavloski, and we will try to find some adult weevils to verify range expansion.

Weeds

Waterhemp

Be on the lookout for waterhemp as its starting to emerge. When looking at pigweeds watch for the presence or absence of hairs as well as the cotyledon shape. Redroot pigweed has hairs and oblong or cigar-shaped cotyledons while waterhemp is smooth and has cotyledons that are shorter and wider and have a more pointy tip. The following pictures of waterhemp were taken by an agronomist in southern Manitoba:









Forecast

Diamondback moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored across Manitoba in May and June to determine how early and in what levels populations of diamondback moth occur. Diamondback moths have been found in 44 out of 75 traps that counts were reported from. Trap counts have generally been low so far, with a couple of traps in the Central region having more moderate counts.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 81 from a trap near Rosenfeld in the Central region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) inpheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of May 29, 2025.Lower Risk: 0-25Elevated Risk: 26-200Higher level of moth catch: 200+

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count	
Northwest	Dropmore	5	
	Durban	2	
	Inglis	1	
	All other counts 0 so far		
Southwest	Melita, Ninga	3	
	Pierson	2	
	Lyleton, Roseland, Wawanesa	1	
	All other counts 0 so far		
Central	Rosenfeld	81	← Highest cumulative count
	Horndean	52	
	Osterwick	11	
	St. Claude	9	
	Brunkild	7	
Eastern	Ste. Anne	8	
	Anola	2	
	All other counts 0 so far		
Interlake	Fisher Branch	16	
	East Selkirk	10	
	Clandeboye	6	
	Meadows, Teulon, Warren	5	
	Riverton, Washow Bay	4	

Highest trap counts of diamondback moth in each region and a monitoring summary are updated weekly on the Insect Page of the Manitoba Agriculture website at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/diamondback-moth-trap-results.pdf

Counts are normally updated every Thursday morning, but the website may be updated more frequently if higher counts come in.



True armyworms

Larvae of armyworms (*Mythimna unipuncta*), sometimes also called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. Adult moths of armyworms migrate to Manitoba in

the spring from overwintering sites from the southern US. A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored from early-May until late-July to determine how early and in what levels populations of armyworms have arrive.

Counts have generally been low so far. Of the 23 traps with counts reported from so far, armyworm moths have been found in 16 of the traps. Cumulative counts are below 10 in all traps with the exception of three traps, all in the Interlake:



Riverton = 63, Fisher Branch= 54, Shorncliffe=11.

We will need to keep on eye on levels in the Interlake, and keep an eye for feeding or armyworm larvae once there has been time for them to develop.

Identification Quiz

Question: You may see these grasshoppers in vegetation near or in a field around this time of year. Are they a potential pest?



Answer: The grasshoppers pictured are not one of the four potential pest species in Manitoba, they are greenstriped grasshoppers (*Chortophaga viridifasciata*).

Greenstriped grasshoppers are one of the first grasshoppers to appear as adults in the spring. This is because this species overwinters as nymphs, unlike the four potential pest species of grasshoppers which all overwinter as eggs. As a general guideline, any grasshopper seen flying before June is not a pest. Female greenstriped grasshoppers are larger than their male counterparts and tend to be green while majority of males are brown. The adults generally produce a soft buzzing sound in flight but when quickly startled they fly without making a sound. Not only do greenstriped grasshoppers use sounds to communicate with potential mates, but special auditory communication between males may also have a role in spacing individuals which reduces competition for mates and limits



population densities. The sound they make can be another clue that they are not a pest. As another general guideline, any grasshopper that sings, clacks, or clatters is not a pest. The pest species are silent.

To **report observations** on insects, plant pathogens, or weeds that may be of interest or importance to farmers and agronomists in Manitoba, please send messages to one of the following Manitoba Agriculture Pest Management Specialists.

John Gavloski, Entomologist (204) 750-0594 Kim Brown, Weed Specialist (431) 344-0239

