Issue 3 – June 5, 2025

# Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports  Weekly Weather Maps  Insects

## Summary

**Insects:** Control of **cutworms** was reported over the past week from flax, soybeans and canola in the Central region, several fields of sunflowers in the Interlake region, and dry beans in the Southwest. Part of a canola field in the Central region was reseeded due to cutworms. Foliar insecticide applications for **flea beetles** continue in some areas, although there have also been reports of lower levels. Notching from feeding by **pea leaf weevil** is visible in lots of pea fields in the Northwest, Southwest, and western part of the Central region. **Diamondback moth** larvae are being noticed on canola plants in some areas, but so far just at low levels. However, there have been some higher trap counts of diamondback moth in traps in the Northwest region recently.

**Weeds:** In-crop weed control operations are continuing. Weather seems to be cooperating now, and farmers continue to scout and spray while weeds are in the correct staging.

## Entomology

### Diamondback moth

Diamondback moth larvae are starting to be noticed on canola in some areas, but currently just at low levels, However, there have been some higher counts of the adult moths recently in some traps in the Northwest region (see diamondback moth forecast below).

Photo by Jason Voogt

Photo by Katie Meggison

It may be good to look for diamondback moth when scouting canola fields, particularly in the Northwest region. Visual inspection of plants may be the easiest way to look for diamondback moth when plants are still young. Also assess levels of defoliation. Leaf feeding by young larvae can result in a windowpane effect and small, irregular-shaped holes. Mature larvae can eat the entire leaf, leaving only the veins.

**Nominal thresholds** for diamondback moth in canola are:
Seedling stage: 25-33% defoliation, with larvae still present on plants.
Immature to flowering plants: Control may be required in canola if larvae exceed an average of 10-15 per $ft^2$ of plants (100-150/$m^2$).

More information on the biology, monitoring, thresholds and management of diamondback moth, including chemical control options in canola and mustard, can be found at:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/diamondback-moth-factsheet.pdf

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Kim Brown
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### Pea leaf weevil

One of the questions that came in this week was regarding leaf notching by pea leaf weevil, and whether this information can be used to estimate yield loss. While the feeding notches by the adult weevils gives a rough estimate of population density and enables us to survey and compare levels in different regions, the notching unfortunately doesn't really allow us to estimate subsequent larval populations, root nodule damage, or yield loss.

Soil quality is a confounding factor, and there is not a linear relationship between leaf notching and larval numbers. There may be a carrying capacity where only so many larvae can survive on nodules from an individual plant.

Pea leaf weevil notching on peas (left) and faba beans (right). Photos by Abi Benson

## 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 63 out of 88 traps that counts were reported from. There have been some moderate cumulative counts in traps in the Central and Northwest regions. Over the past week there have been some higher counts in the Bowsman area of the Northwest region. Otherwise counts have been low.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 181 from a trap north of Bowsman in the Northwest region. This trap count is all from a recent one-week trapping period (May 25 -31), as are the counts of 92 and 64 in the Bowsman area, shown in Table 1. Those in the northwest region should begin looking for larvae of diamondback moth when scouting canola fields.

**Table 1**. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 5, 2025.

Lower Risk: 0-25 Elevated Risk: 26-200 Higher level of moth catch: 200+

| Region | Nearest Town | Trap Count |
|---|---|---|
| Northwest | North Bowsman | 181 |
| | Bowsman | 92 |
| | West Bowsman | 64 |
| | Togo | 52 |
| Southwest | Roseland | 9 |
| | Melita | 4 |
| | Hartney, Ninga | 3 |
| | Lyleton, Pierson | 2 |
| Central | Rosenfeld | 97 |
| | Horndean | 61 |
| | Brunkild | 52 |
| | St. Joseph | 35 |
| Eastern | Ste. Anne | 23 |
| | Anola | 2 |
| | All other counts 0 so far | |
| Interlake | Fisher Branch | 18 |
| | Warren | 12 |
| | East Selkirk | 10 |
| | Clandeboye | 8 |

← Highest cumulative count

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 30 traps with counts reported from so far, armyworm moths have been found in 22 of the traps. Cumulative counts are below 10 in all traps with the exception of four traps, all in the Interlake:
Riverton = 66, Fisher Branch= 54, Shorncliffe=15, Framnes=11. The higher numbers noted for Riverton and Fisher Branch are mainly due to counts of 53 and 52 respectively during the week of May 11-17.

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Those scouting cereals and forage grasses in the Interlake may want to check to see what armyworm larval levels are like in their fields. Armyworm larvae have been noticed, but so far there have been no reports of economic levels.

## Identification Quiz

**Question:** These beetles may occasionally be seen in crops, what are they?


**Answer:** This is a soldier beetle (Coleoptera: Cantharidae). There are 33 species of soldier beetles in Manitoba. The adults of some species feed on nectar and pollen and may provide pollination benefits, while the adults of other species are predaceous, feeding on aphids and other soft-bodied insects. Soldier beetle larvae are ground dwelling predators whose diets include caterpillars, fly larvae, and grasshopper eggs. The larvae of one species known to occur in Manitoba, *Chauliognathus pennsylvanicus* (not pictured), is documented feeding on the larvae and nymphs of wood ticks in a lab setting.

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

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