Issue 2 – May 28, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

Insects: **Wireworm**s have been reported from a couple of fields (wheat and peas) in the Central region. **Flea beetles** are feeding on wild cruciferous plants, volunteer canola, and this year's canola as it emerges. Flea beetle feeding on canola has been light so far, and there have been no reports of heavy damage or the need for foliar insecticides. In most fields the seed treatments should still be providing effective flea beetle control, but with this warmer weather keep an eye on levels of flea beetle injury to plants, particularly in earlier seeded fields.

Diseases: No disease issues were reported this week. However, given these hot and dry conditions we did receive some reports on stress related issues such as heat banding in wheat. There are also some updates on the Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) Risk Mapping Tool. See below for more information.

Entomology

Wireworms

The photos below are from wireworm feeding observed this season, and show a couple of the ways wireworms may feed on and damage plants.

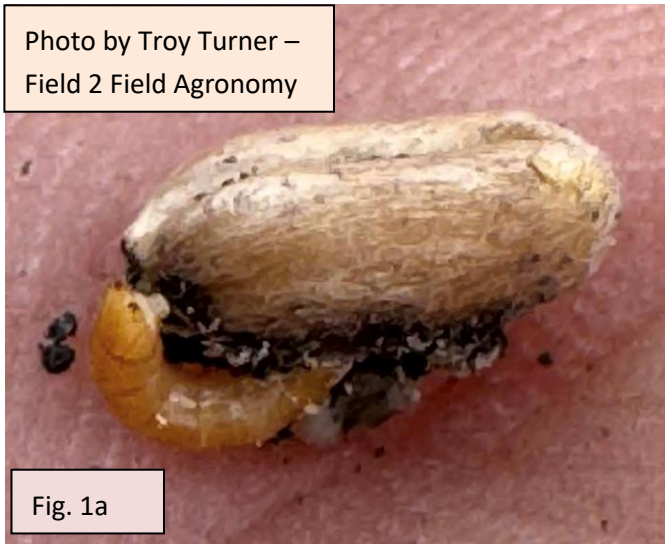
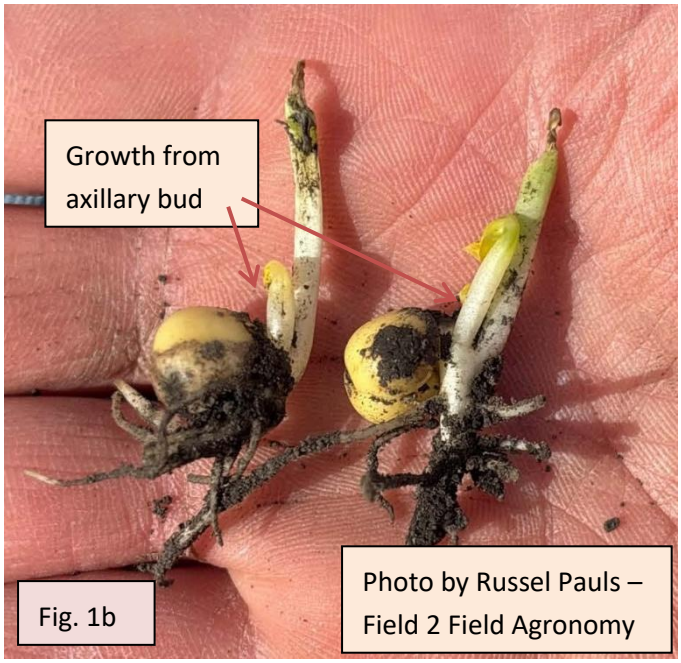


Photo by Troy Turner – Field 2 Field Agronomy

Fig. 1a



Growth from axillary bud

Fig. 1b

Photo by Russel Pauls – Field 2 Field Agronomy

Wireworms may feed directly on the seeds, as in figure 1a, and may be burrowed into the seed. Although wireworms restrict their feeding to belowground, they will feed on new belowground growth after the plants germinate and are

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Entomologist; Simon Huang, Field Crop Pathologist; Kim Brown, Weeds Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture. Subscribe to the weekly Crop Pest Update

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emerging. In Figure 1b, the growing point of these pea plants has been damaged. The loss of apical dominance has triggered growth from axillary buds.

Typical wireworm damage can appear as hollowed-out seeds, or tunnelled or shredded stems. Young plants that have wireworm injury may wilt, or have yellowing or wilting centre leaves.

Pea Leaf Weevil

This photo shows some of the "u"-shaped notches to leaf margins that may be present if the adults weevils of pea leaf weevil have been feeding on pea or faba bean plants.

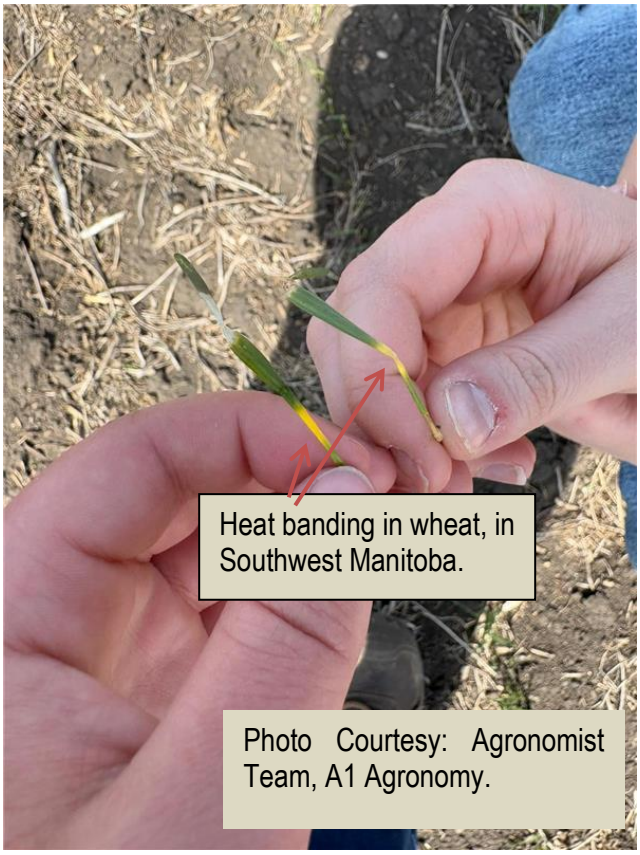
This adult feeding is not usually economical, however significant foliar feeding might have an impact when pea leaf weevil densities are quite high.

Larval feeding on the nitrogen-fixing nodules can reduce nitrogen fixation by the plant, resulting in poor plant growth and low seed yields.

A survey is being done in Manitoba, and across the prairie provinces, to assess the levels of pea leaf weevil populations. This is done by counting the u-shaped notches on seedlings. Notches on 50 seedlings are counted in a field. If anyone would like to contribute to the survey that has not already been sent the protocol, please contact John Gavloski (see contact information at the end of the report).

Diseases

Heat Banding



Heat banding in wheat, in Southwest Manitoba.

Photo Courtesy: Agronomist Team, A1 Agronomy.

Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) Risk Mapping Tool

The Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) Risk Mapping Tool (available at https://prairiefhb.ca/ or scan the QR code below) is a free, publicly accessible tool developed for Prairie grain producers to estimate FHB risk based on weather conditions and support timely fungicide application decisions.

Producers are encouraged to use the map together with crop growth staging to determine whether crops have reached a susceptible stage for fungicide application. Updated models developed from the expanded dataset (2019-2024) achieved accuracy levels ranging from 61% to 93%, with overall improvements in model robustness and statistical accuracy. These updated models were implemented on the map in the spring of 2026.

The project will continue through 2028 with funding support from the Prairie Provincial Wheat and Barley Producer Group Consortium, and ongoing work will be focusing on disease data and sample collection across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, further improving model accuracy and reliability under Prairie growing conditions, and enhancing the overall user experience of the risk map website.

Growers and agronomists can support the project by using the map, sharing user experiences or questions, and contacting local crop specialists regarding FHB management or map interpretation. Ongoing grain sample collection and FHB disease monitoring are also taking place on producer fields across the Prairies.

QR Code directs to the Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) Risk Mapping Tool. Provided by Jamie Wan, University of Manitoba.

Forecast

Diamondback moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps for diamondback moth are once again being checked weekly in May and June. Counts of adult diamondback moth continue to be low. The table below shows the highest counts for each agricultural region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of May 28, 2026.

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

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count	
Northwest	Grandview	5	
	Makaroff	3	
	San Clara	2	
	Macnutt, Petlura, Shortdale	3	
	All other counts	0	
Southwest	Sioux Valley	1	
	All other counts	0	
Central	St. Joseph	3	
	All other counts	0	
Eastern	Ste. Anne	14	← Highest Cumulative Count
	Tourond	1	
South Interlake	Stonewall	5	
	East Selkirk	3	
	Warren	3	
	All other counts	0	
	Morweena	10	

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North Interlake	Arnes	9
	Teulon	9
	Riverton	6

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

- Traps for true armyworm were set up in early May.
- Results are being entered and mapped on the Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network website: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7164d23d488246d198dcf7a07d8c9021/page/Home/?views=Welcome
- **To view the data**, select TAW. The "Play" button at the bottom can be set so the map automatically advances (click middle arrow), or set to "Stop" and the arrows at either side of the button can be used to go forward or backward a week at a time.
- Larger dots mean more moths trapped. A Legend is provided to help interpret dot size.
- **Results**: Note that for the week of May 18 -25, there are a couple of locations in the Interlake in the 50 – 98 range. During the week of May 25 to June 1 there was a count in the Interlake region in the 99-147 range. Adults arriving would be looking for lush stands of grassy plants to lay their eggs into. Often forage grasses and winter cereals seem to be preferred sites, although spring cereals may be attractive as well in some years (probably less so this year for moths arriving in May). Those scouting cereal crops and forage grasses in the Interlake region should pay extra attention for feeding injury or check levels of true armyworm larvae.

A reminder for those monitoring traps for true armyworm that the pheromone lures should be changed every 3 weeks so that the pheromone plume is strong enough to attract the moths to the trap.

Bertha armyworm trap setup timing

Bertha armyworm overwinter as pupae in the soil. Pupal development requires 352 accumulated degree-days with a developmental temperature threshold of 7 °C. As of the beginning of this week (May 24), the maximum degree days accumulated since April 1 in Manitoba was still under 150.

The normal trap setup time for traps for bertha armyworm is the first week in June. Given the delayed pupal development this year, we will aim to set the traps for bertha armyworm the second week in June (June 7 to 13).

Identification Quiz

The insect larva in the photo below can sometimes be found in the soil while scouting for insects like cutworms and wireworms. A couple of agronomists have reported finding them in fields over the past week. What is this?

Answer: This is a crane fly larva. These are decomposers.Crane fly larvae have no legs, and often have fleshy, tentacle-like things at the back end.

Adult crane flies are often mistaken for large mosquitoes, but they will not bite. There are five families and 108 different species of crane flies in Manitoba, including *Chionea valga* which is active during the winter and is wingless, meaning it can sometimes be found walking on snow.

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
Simon Huang, Plant Pathologist (204) 750-4248

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