

Issue 4 – June 11, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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Summary

Insects: **Cutworms** continue to be found in some fields. Over the past week there were reports of spraying for cutworms in canola in fields near Minnedosa and Elm Creek, as well as a soybean field in the Central region. There have been some foliar insecticide applications for **flea beetles**, but not a lot. At times some of these applications have been edge treatments. **Pea leaf weevil** notching is quite variable between fields, but some higher incidence of notching have been seen in Western and Central Manitoba.

Diseases: A few reports on leaf spot diseases, specifically suspected tan spot in cereals. No diseases reported from canola, soybean, pulse, corn or other field crops.

Weeds: Weed control operations continued across the province, as weather conditions allowed. Crop tolerance so far has been good and herbicides have been working well. Recent heavy rains in some areas have stressed crops and farmers will have to wait for better conditions to continue spraying.

Entomology

Pea leaf weevil

Notching from pea leaf weevil adults has been quite variable in fields from the survey so far, with some lower counts and also some very high counts in fields in Western and Central Manitoba. The photos below show some examples of heavier notching to faba bean leaves.



Photos by Griffin Carnelley- Manitoba Agriculture

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Entomologist; Simon Huang, Plant Pathologist; Kim Brown, Weeds Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture. [Subscribe](#) to the weekly Crop Pest Update

Note that although there is a lot of notching around the edges of these leaves, the overall percent defoliation is not very high and the plants should recover well from the defoliation from the adults. What it does indicate though, is that there could be a lot of larvae present in the field. Larvae feeding on the nitrogen-fixing nodules can reduce nitrogen fixation by the plant, resulting in poor plant growth and low seed yields.

Bean leaf beetle – a less common defoliator on soybeans in Manitoba

The photo below is of a bean leaf beetle (*Cerotoma trifurcata*) found in a soybean field in the Eastern region of Manitoba. Although bean leaf beetles have been observed before in Manitoba, they are fortunately quite rare, and I have never seen an economical population.

Adults make small, round holes between major leaflet veins, which is quite distinctive from the larger asymmetrical holes or more jagged damage to leaves by caterpillars and grasshoppers. Seeing this type of feeding injury can be a clue that they are in the area. Late season adults will feed on pods, creating lesions in the pods. Host plants of bean leaf beetle include soybeans, dry beans, peas, alfalfa, clover, and other plants.

If anyone does encounter bean leaf beetles while scouting soybeans or other host plants, please contact John Gavloski. I would be interested to know of any locations where they are showing up.



Invasive species poster

While out scouting crops, if you notice any of the insects on the invasive species poster at the link below, please collect a sample and contact the appropriate individuals. There is a QR code on the poster for reporting observations.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/priority-pest-insects-2025-prairies.pdf>

Diseases

Cereal leaf spot diseases

A few cases of cereal leaf spot diseases were reported. Suspected tan spot was reported in spring wheat and durum wheat in Southwest Manitoba. For tan spot disease, early in the season, infection appears as small oval to diamond-shaped spots on cereal leaves. These lesions enlarge, turn tan with a yellow margin, and often develop a dark center forming a characteristic “eyespot”. Foliar fungicides are available for early-season management of leaf spot diseases (i.e., tank mixing a fungicide and herbicide may be an option), refer to Guide to Field Crop Protection 2026 for more information.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/guides-and-publications/pubs/guide-crop-protection-2026.pdf>



Spring wheat showing suspected symptoms.

Photo Courtesy: Agronomist Team, A1 Agronomy.



Durum wheat showing suspected symptoms.

Photo Courtesy: Agronomist Team, A1 Agronomy.

Weeds

Pigweeds

Warm season weeds like pigweeds are emerging and it's important to know which pigweed(s) is/are present. Most pigweeds have cigar-shaped cotyledons (seed leaves) while waterhemp has more egg-shaped cotyledons with pointed tips. Redroot pigweed is covered with rough-feeling fine hairs, while waterhemp is hairless and smooth-feeling. Other pigweeds can also be smooth and hairless, so it's important to know what pigweeds are present. If it's not redroot pigweed you need to find out which other pigweed it is. The following pictures can aid in identification of different pigweeds.

Pigweed Species Cotyledons to 2-Leaf Stage

Note the egg-shaped, pointy tipped cotyledons of waterhemp compared to the cigar-shaped cotyledons of other pigweeds:



© Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie

Note redroot pigweed on the left, covered with small rough hairs compared to waterhemp on the right which is hairless and smooth:



Forecast

Armyworms

Traps for true armyworm were set up in early May. Some high trap counts have been showing up in recent weeks in the Interlake region. A count of 252 true armyworm moths was recorded from the trap near Teulon during the week of May 17-23, and that trap now has a cumulative total of 451 moths. Four traps in the Interlake have cumulative counts over 150 moths.

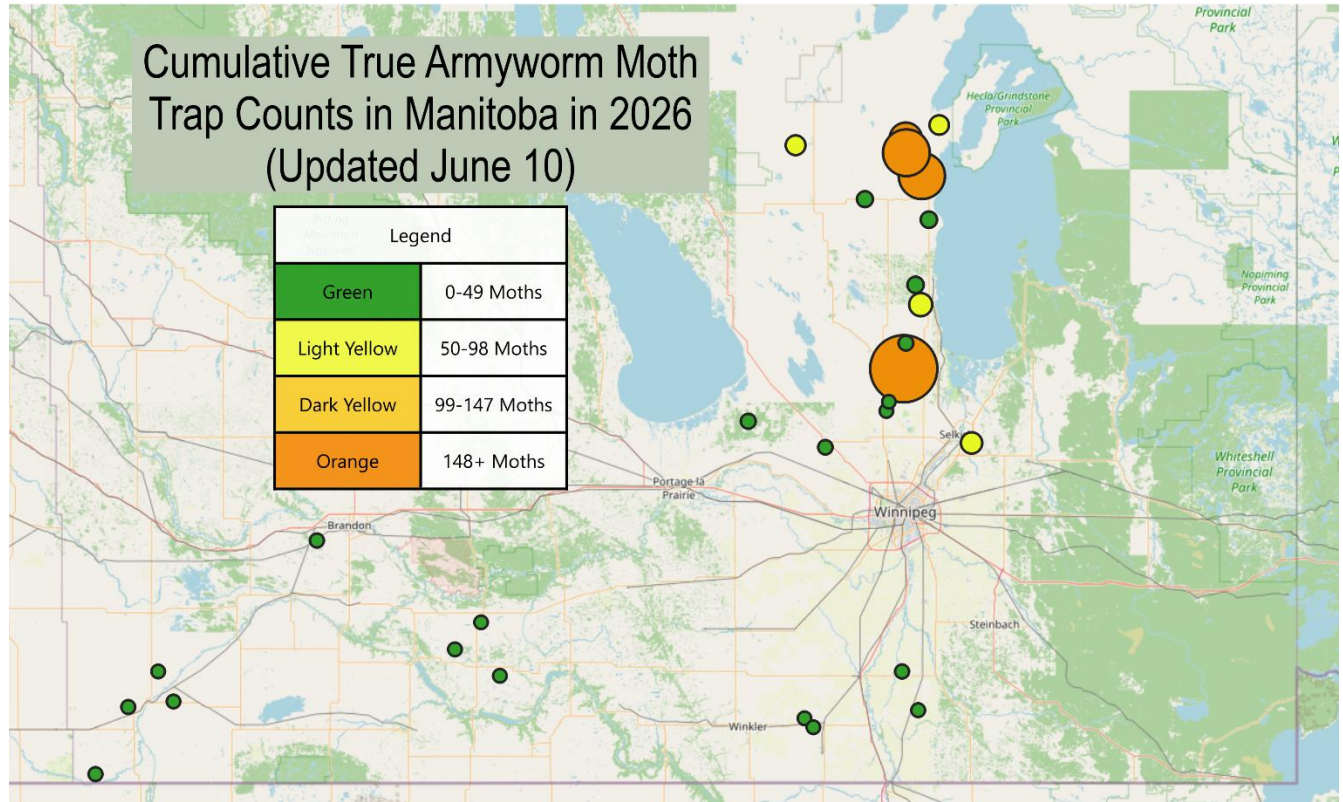


Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of true armyworm moths (*Mythimna unipuncta*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of June 10, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Teulon	Interlake	451
Shorncliffe	Interlake	280
Riverton	Interlake	276
Shorncliffe	Interlake	160
Husavik	Interlake	81
East Selkirk	Interlake	66
Fisher Branch	Interlake	53
Washow Bay	Interlake	50
Jaroslaw	Interlake	33
Aspen Park	Interlake	32

Adult armyworms that have arrived 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. 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.

Diamondback Moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps for diamondback moth are being checked weekly in May and June. Counts of adult diamondback moth have generally been low, although some moderate counts occurred in traps near The Pas and Grandview in the Northwest region, Ste. Anne and Tourond in the Eastern region, and Arnes and Morweena in the Interlake region. The map below shows where some of these moderate counts are located. Note that there are still a lot of traps where no diamondback moth have been recorded.

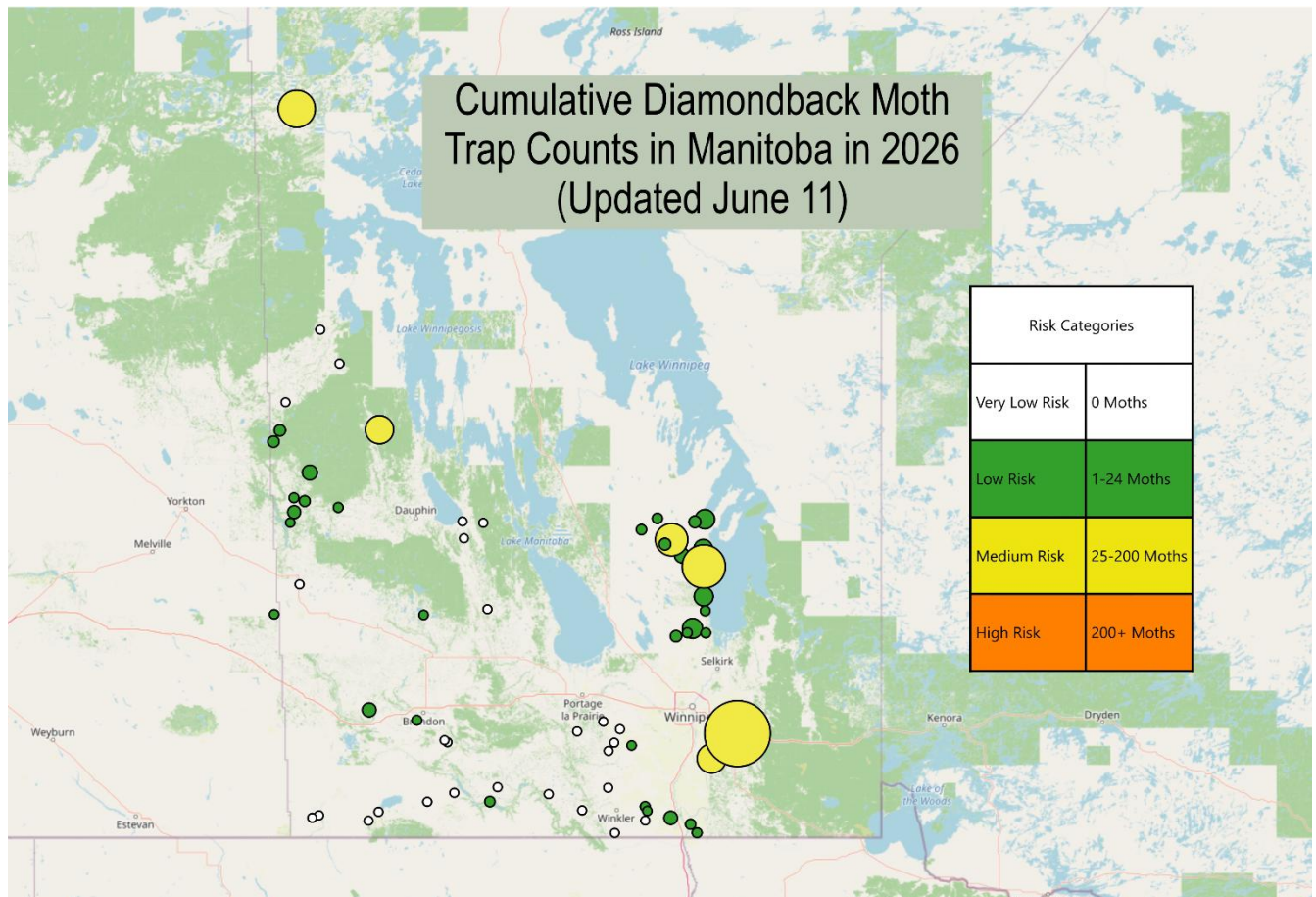


Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba as of June 11, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Ste. Anne	Eastern	112
Arnes	North Interlake	64
The Pas (East)	Northwest	51
Morweena	North Interlake	41
Tourond	Eastern	34
Grandview	Northwest	32
Teulon	North Interlake	22
Washow Bay	North Interlake	21
Gimli	North Interlake	20
Riverton	North Interlake	19

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.

Bertha Armyworms

This year, the aim to set up the traps for bertha armyworm was the second week in June (June 7 to 13). In some areas, fields would be hard to get to because of the excessive water. Next week is fine for setting up traps for bertha armyworm in fields that you were not able to get to this week.

Identification Quiz

What is this unusual looking nest?



Answer: This is an early stage nest built by a queen bald-faced hornet (*Dolichovespula maculata*). Over time the workers will expand the nest into a more spherical shape. By late summer, nests can reach the size of a basketball and house 400 to 700 wasps; they are abandoned in the winter and are not reused.

The name for this species is a bit deceiving, as they are technically a species of yellowjacket wasp, and not one of the true hornets, which belong to the genus *Vespa*. Their common name “bald-faced hornets” comes from the white markings present on the faces of the adults. Bald-faced hornets are omnivores, and considered to be beneficial due to their predation of flies, caterpillars, and spiders.

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