Issue 5 – June 18, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

Insects: There continues to be some foliar insecticide applications for **flea beetles**, but overall there has not been as many as in some recent years. A couple of fields in the Southwest region had portions of fields reseeded because of flea beetle injury. Both **diamondback moth** larvae and **cabbage seedpod weevils** are also starting to be noticed in some canola fields. **Alfalfa weevil**, and their feeding, are being noticed in some alfalfa fields. **True armyworm** larvae are starting to be noticed in the Interlake region, and will be an insect to monitor in cereals and forage grasses.

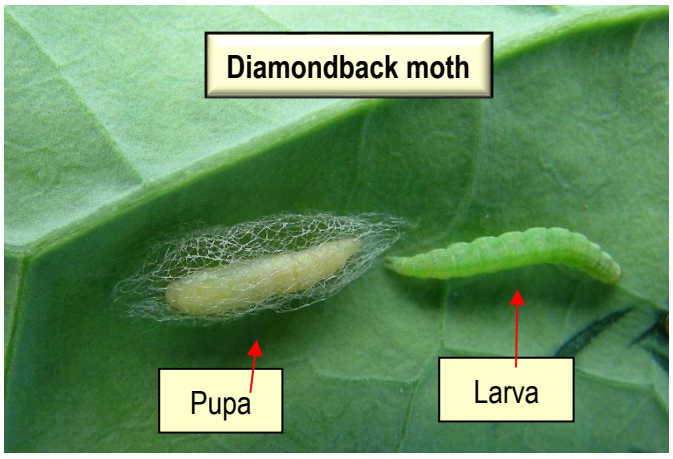
Diseases: Producers returned to the fields by midweek, with in-crop spraying being the top priority. Several suspected canola root rots were reported this week. In some southern areas of the region, winter wheat is approaching the stage for fungicide applications. Overall, winter cereals remain in good condition. Heavy rainfall and strong winds in certain areas have left fields saturated and will require additional time to dry. Spring cereals are now mostly at the tillering stage, with the most advanced fields approaching the 4–5 leaf stage. A few cases of cereal leaf spot diseases were reported, suspected to be tan spot.

Weeds: Weed control operations resumed as fields permitted. Areas of the provinces that received several inches of water still have fields under water; these fields will have to drain and dry out enough to be driven over. Flooded fields will have to be assessed for crop and weed health to determine if and when they can/should be sprayed.

Entomology

Diamondback moth

Diamondback moth larvae are starting to be noticed in some areas, and at times are on plants that are not yet at rosette stage. So far there have been no reports of economic levels or injury, but should high levels start to get noticed in a field, there are nominal thresholds for diamondback moth at various stages. When plants are very young, percent defoliation can be used as a guideline for management decisions.



Thresholds for diamondback moth are:

Seedling stage: A nominal threshold of 25-33% defoliation, with larvae still present on plants, can be used for canola at the seedling stage.

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) in immature to flowering plants.

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

Manitoba

Plants with flowers and pods: Control may be required in canola if larvae exceed an average of 20-30 per ft^2 (200-300/m^2) in plants with flowers and pods.

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

Cabbage seedpod weevils starting to be noticed

Although canola is not yet flowering, cabbage seedpod weevil may start to be noticed in some fields that have buds.
.
Cabbage seedpod weevil come out as soon as temperatures are over 13°C, and start feeding on any brassicaceous weeds that flower early, such as flixweed. Then when the canola starts to bud, bolt and flower they move into canola.

Given that we did have some high levels of cabbage seedpod weevil in some parts of Manitoba last year, when canola is in the early flowering stages it is good to do some sweep net sampling to assess what levels are like. The earliest flowering canola fields in a region may attract more cabbage seedpod weevil, so make sweep net sampling in these fields a priority when they start to flower.

This photo was taken this week on canola that was producing buds.

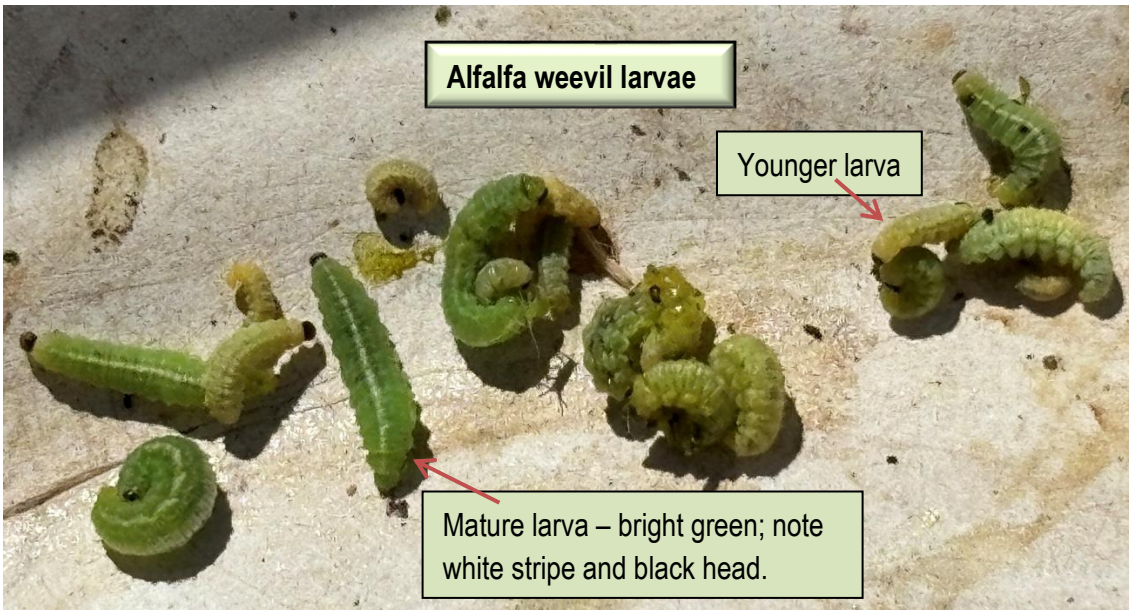
The adult weevils are only about 3-4 mm long, but do have a long snout. They may play dead when you disturb them.

Photo by Gabriella Beckta-Bossuyt – Richardson Pioneer

Alfafla weevil

Adults and larvae at various stages can be found in alfalfa fields currently. Larvae grow through four instars. The first instar larvae will be light yellow to tan, with a darker head. Third and fourth instar larvae are bright green with a white stripe down the centre of the back and a shiny black head capsule. The following photo taken during the past week shows some alfalfa weevil larvae from our alfalfa plots near Carman. Note the difference in sizes and colour. We are also still finding alfalfa weevil adults.

An agronomist this week had mentioned how in the alfalfa field he was assessing the alfalfa weevil feeding was limited to areas that were all alfalfa and no grasses growing. Anywhere there were grasses growing with the alfalfa, there was no noticeable damage to be seen. This can sometimes be the case. Alfalfa-grass mixtures have been shown to reduce alfalfa weevil densities compared to pure alfalfa stands. However, results have been variable between studies and species of grass.



For those growing or scouting alfalfa fields, now is a good time to be assessing levels of alfalfa weevil and their feeding. The following factsheet outlines monitoring and management options, and provides information on biology of alfalfa weevil: https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/alfalfa-weevil.html
For hay fields, early cutting can be a management option.

Diseases

Canola root rot

We received several reports of root rot in canola fields. The plants were mostly at 4 – 5 leaf stages. Observations showed that it occurred in small patches or in a small section in a row, showing no emergence, discolorations or damping-off above ground. When these seedlings were dug up, root shrivel, girdling, or various levels of decay were noticed.

Suspected root root in young canola seedlings. Photo courtesy of Lindsey Brooks, Manitoba Canola Growers Association.

Suspected root root in young canola seedlings. Photo courtesy of Simon Huang, Manitoba Agriculture.

Suspected root root in young canola seedlings.

Photo courtesy of Simon Huang, Manitoba Agriculture.

Manitoba

More details about root rot diseases in canola can be found in the website of Canola Council of Canada.
https://www.canolacouncil.org/canola-encyclopedia/diseases/root-rot/

Practical tips for scouting and diagnosis can be found in the website of Canola Council of Canada.
https://www.canolacouncil.org/canola-watch/fundamentals/agronomy-steps-to-make-an-accurate-diagnosis/

Scouting and risk assessment recommendations for cereal leaf spot diseases

As crops advance, disease scouting is becoming increasingly important now. More information regarding leaf spot diseases in cereals can be found in the website of Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network (PCDMN).

https://prairiecropdisease.com/2026/06/12/scouting-and-risk-assessment-recommendations-for-cereal-leaf-spot-diseases-3/

Weeds

Drift

Strong winds in the last couple of weeks have made spraying challenging. If drift is suspected you need to gather as much information as you can and talk to all parties involved. MB Agriculture has a couple of forms that can help with this process - firstly a Pesticide Incident Checklist pesticide-incident-check-list.pdf and secondly a Pesticide Incident Reporting Form pesticide-incident-report-form.pdf . Its crucial to act on a suspected incident as soon as possible. Here are a couple of pictures of potential Group27/6 drift on canola:

Forecast

True armyworm

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 485 moths. Four traps in the Interlake have cumulative counts over 150 moths. Another four traps in the Interlake region have cumulative counts in the 99-147 moth range.

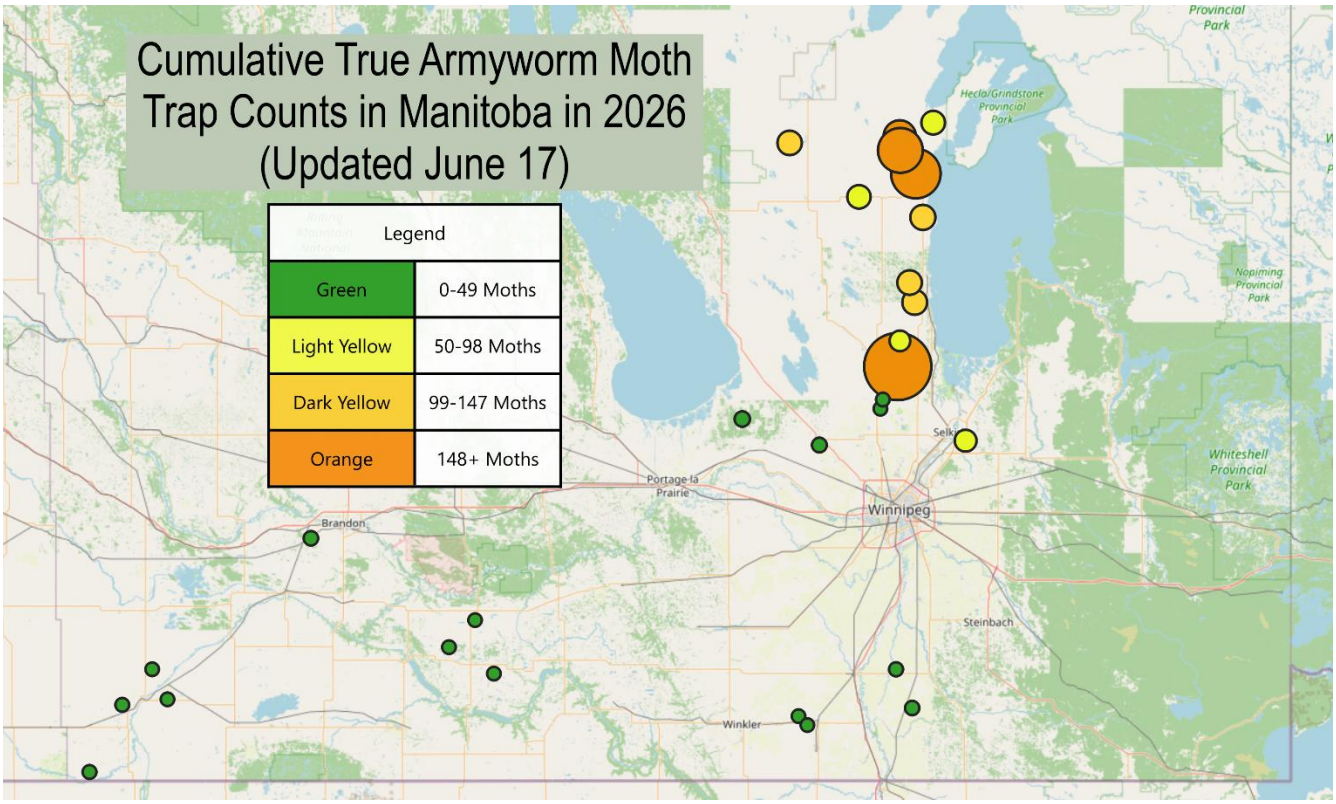


Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of true armyworm moths (*Mythimna unipuncta*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of June 17, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Teulon	Interlake	485
Riverton	Interlake	326
Shorncliffe	Interlake	283
Shorncliffe	Interlake	171
Jaroslaw	Interlake	105
Husavik	Interlake	103
Aspen Park	Interlake	100
Fisher Branch	Interlake	99
Washow Bay	Interlake	92
Framnes	Interlake	90

Armyworm larvae are starting to be detected in the Interlake region, but so far there are no reports of economic populations. Looking for evidence of defoliation and larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses is recommended.

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, and are less than 26 in 66 of the 74 traps. 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, Morweena, Arborg and Washow Bay 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. Diamondback moth larvae have been noticed in some canola fields over the past week, but so far there have been no reports of economic levels or injury.

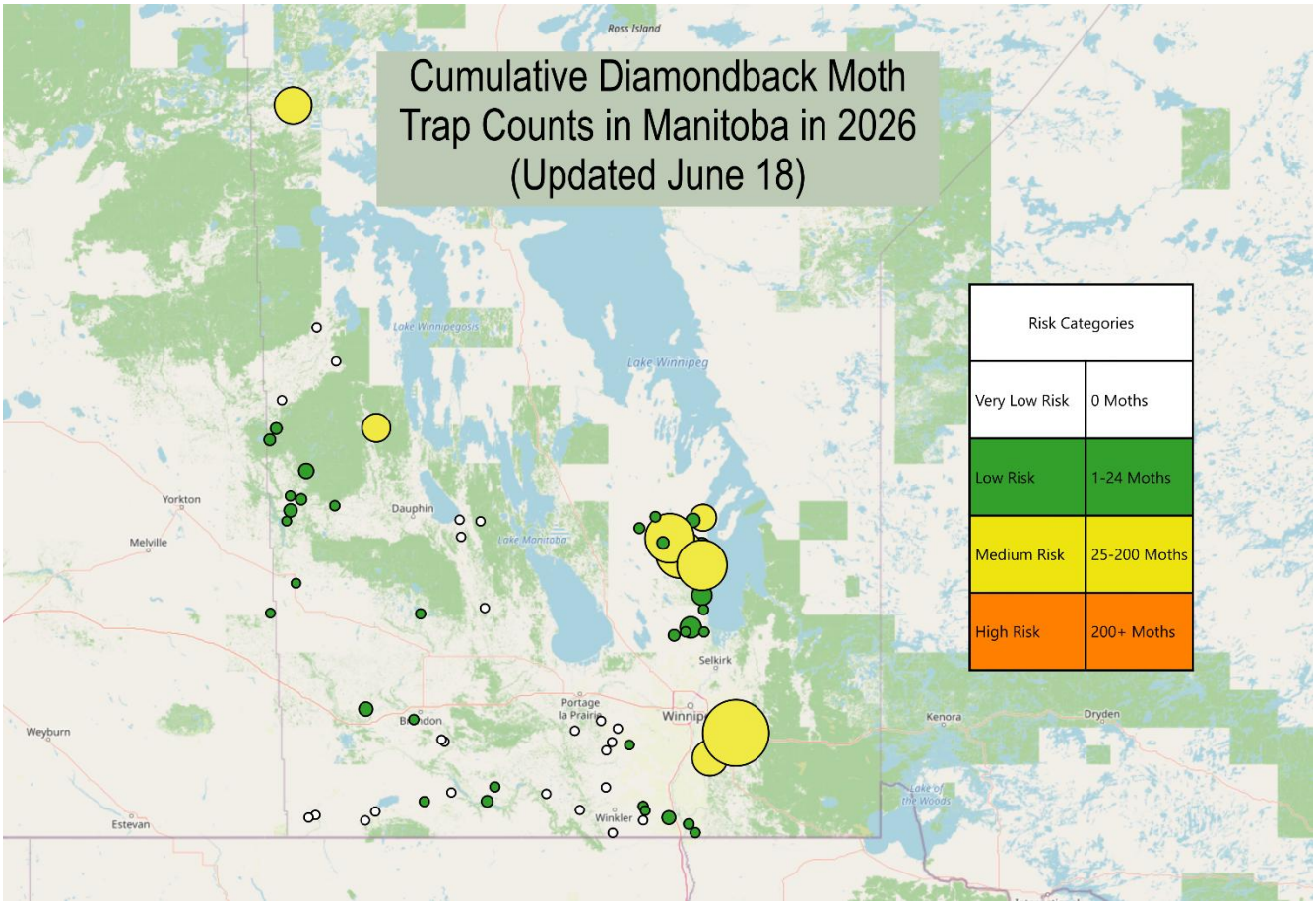


Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba as of June 18, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Ste. Anne	Eastern	112
Arnes	North Interlake	78
Morweena	North Interlake	76
Arborg	North Interlake	74
The Pas (East)	Northwest	51
Tourond	Eastern	47
Grandview	Northwest	32
Washow Bay	North Interlake	28
Teulon	North Interlake	24
Gimli	North Interlake	22

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 Armyworm

Trap counts in the bertha armyworm traps are still very low, although it is early and emergence of adults would be in the early stages. The highest cumulative count so far is 8 from a trap near Teulon in the Interlake region.

Identification Quiz

Question: This rather large moth can sometimes be seen in Manitoba this time of year. What is it?

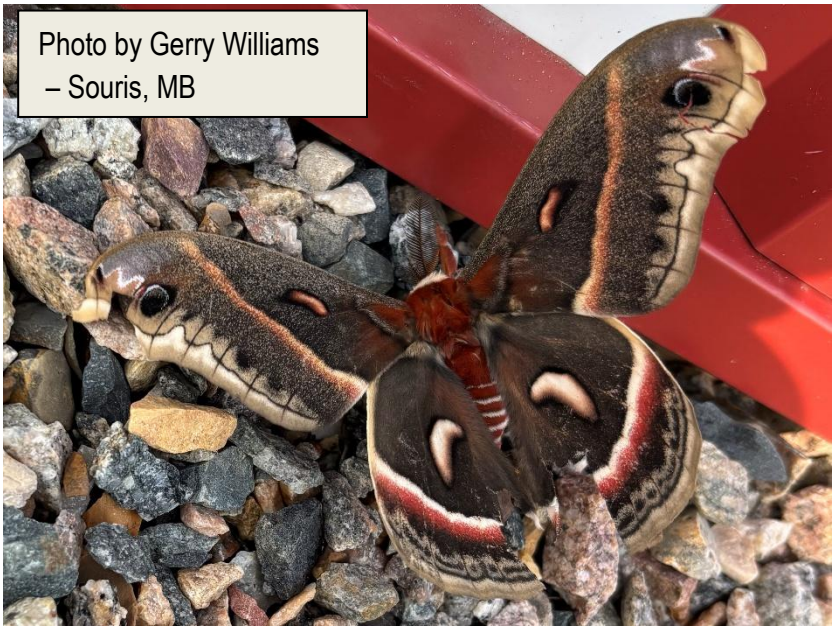


Photo by Gerry Williams – Souris, MB

Answer: This is a cecropia moth, *Hyalophora cecropia*. Cecropia moths are the largest moths in North America, with a wingspan of five to seven inches (13 to 18 cm) or more. They do not feed as adults. Adult cecropia moths lack functional mouth parts and a digestive system. Because of this, they survive for approximately two weeks.

Larvae feed on the leaves of trees such as maple, oak, poplar, apple, and many other deciduous trees. Cecropia larvae grow to be quite large, reaching four to five inches (10 to 13 cm) before pupating.

Cecropia moths and their larvae are not regarded as pests, but because of their size, colours and interesting patterns are a real spectacle to see. Cecropia moth adults are most commonly encountered in late spring and

early summer; they are night-fliers and are attracted to artificial lights such as street and porch lights, which is where you may see one yourself.

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
Simon Huang, Plant Pathologist (204) 750-4248
Kim Brown, Weed Specialist (431) 344-0239

Manitoba