

Issue 6 – June 25, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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Summary

Insects: There have been some insecticide applications for **cabbage seedpod weevil** in the Central region. In some fields, high levels are being found on plants that are still in the bud stage and not yet flowering. Scouting with a sweep net in canola is encouraged, as are the use of economic thresholds, as there are risks to applications at below threshold levels (see article below). There are some later seeded canola fields in some regions, such as the Northwest, that are still in vulnerable stages for **flea beetles**, and having control applied. **Thistle caterpillar** has been noted feeding on Canada thistles in some areas, but so far there have been no reports of it at high levels in alternate hosts like soybeans.

Diseases: No major diseases reported, with a few suspected tan spot cases observed in cereals. Disease scouting and monitoring fungicide application timing will remain important as crops advance and wet and humid conditions become more favorable for disease development. Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) is becoming more noticeable in some soybean fields.

Weeds: Herbicide applications are wrapping up except for fields that have been too wet to travel on. Crop yellowing has been seen in crops that were under stress when sprayed, they should come out of it as growing conditions improve. Start to evaluate how well herbicides have worked, 10-14 days after spraying for most systemic herbicides.

Entomology

Cabbage Seedpod Weevil – Scouting, Thresholds and Management Considerations

Although attracted to flowering canola, cabbage seedpod weevil adults are being found in some canola fields that are still in the bud stage, at times in high numbers. Cabbage seedpod weevil adults feed on buds and flowers. This can cause bud blasting, but canola is good at compensating for this, particularly under good soil moisture conditions, and feeding from adults generally has little impact on yield. Larvae feed on developing seeds within the seedpods. This is what canola can't compensate from.

Monitoring: Monitoring for cabbage seedpod weevil needs to be done using a sweep net. Estimate adult levels per 10 sweeps. Ideally, take ten 180 degree



Photo by Jason Voogt –
Field 2 Field Agronomy

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

walking sweeps at 5 locations along the field edge and five locations inside the field, spreading out where samples are taken. If this is not possible or practical, at the very minimum take samples at two opposite corners of the field, taking two samples 50 m apart at each location, one along the edge and another inside the field.

For anyone who is newer to using a sweep net to monitor insects, more information on how to use a sweep net to monitor insects can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/monitoring-with-sweepnet-factsheet-april2026.pdf>

Information on where to purchase a sweep net can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/purchasing-sweepnet-factsheet.pdf>

Economic Thresholds: 25 to 40 weevils per 10 sweeps. If above the economic threshold and applying an insecticide, spray in the morning or evening for best results and to protect pollinators.

Timing of applications: Some have been wondering what to do if there are above threshold levels of cabbage seedpod weevil on a crop that is not yet flowering. Adults will feed on developing flower buds, which can cause bud-blasting. In dry years, this may reduce yield potential, as the ability of plants to compensate is reduced if conditions are too dry. That is not the case this year. Under good growing conditions, canola can compensate for bud and flower feeding, and plants naturally abort a large proportion of buds/flowers.

The general recommendation is to wait about one week after you see the first flower in the field, which would be around 20% field flowering. There is a risk of weevil re-invasion if you spray too early.

The other consideration when assessing weevil levels prior to flowering, is that at the bolting stage weevils will be highly concentrated in the patches with more advanced canola. By the time the field is flowering more uniformly, weevil counts may not be as high as those in the more advanced patches at bolting.

The adults may concentrate along the edge of canola fields before spreading out more uniformly across the field. What needs to be prevented is the adult weevils laying eggs into pods. Larvae feed on developing seeds, with each larva eating 5 or 6 seeds. Managing economic populations before they are able to lay eggs into pods is what is most critical.

Management Considerations: Because the proper time to control cabbage seedpod weevil is when the crop is flowering, scouting is critical, and insecticide should only be used if the threshold for cabbage seed pod weevil has been surpassed. There are both economic and environmental consequences otherwise.

All insecticides currently registered for cabbage seedpod weevil in Canada are broad spectrum, and would be applied to a crop that has begun flowering. Thus, pollinators need to be considered, both for the sake of beekeepers, and to maximize canola profitability. Although canola may still produce good yields in the absence of pollinators, pollinators result in improved yields, and contribute to uniform and early pod setting. Thus, it is important that insecticides only be applied if the threshold for cabbage seed pod weevil has been surpassed, and applied as late in the day as possible. Applications when economic thresholds have not been reached can inadvertently result in reduced yield potential if the yield boost from pollinators is negated by the insecticide, and can additionally reduce predator and parasitoid populations.

Cabbage seedpod weevil survey: For anyone sweeping canola fields that is interested in contributing to the cabbage seedpod weevil survey that is being conducted during canola flowering, a protocol for the survey is available at: <protocol-cabbage-seedpod-weevil-survey.pdf>

The survey involves taking 25 sweeps at 3 locations in the field, transferring them to a bag, and sending them to John Gavloski with Manitoba Agriculture in Carman.

Grasshopper nymphs vs. leafhoppers

Note that grasshoppers are not the only things you may see jumping in the ditches and field this time of year. There are many species of leafhoppers, 1,097 species in Canada. Only two of these are potential pests of field crops in Manitoba, the aster leafhopper shown below being one of them. Adult leafhoppers may jump or fly when disturbed. Nymphs have a "crab-like" gait, and can run forwards, backwards, and sideways. Below are some photos of adult aster leafhoppers and grasshopper nymphs.



Photos by Sheila Elder

Beneficial Insects

We are introducing a new column on beneficial insects to our weekly updates. Updates on beneficial insects currently being noticed will be provided. Farmers, agronomists and other report readers are encouraged to submit information when they encounter beneficial insects or pathogens at work in their fields or present on their farms. This information will also be compiled and presented in the weekly updates. Monitoring and reporting on beneficial insects is something that has been suggested by agronomists, and it is good to see the interest.

For anyone who is interested, a standardized "beneficial insects monitoring" protocol has been created, to provide guidance and a means of collecting data on the types and levels of some common beneficial insects that are present on a farm or in an area. Data on beneficial insects can be collected at the same time crops are being scouted for pests. Baseline data can be collected, or levels can be followed throughout or at different points in the season.

https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/beneficial_insects_monitoring_protocol.pdf

The data can provide records for particular fields, and if interested can be submitted so it can be included in the Crop Pest Updates.

Some of the beneficial insects that have been reported over the past week include lady beetles, lacewings and parasitic wasps.

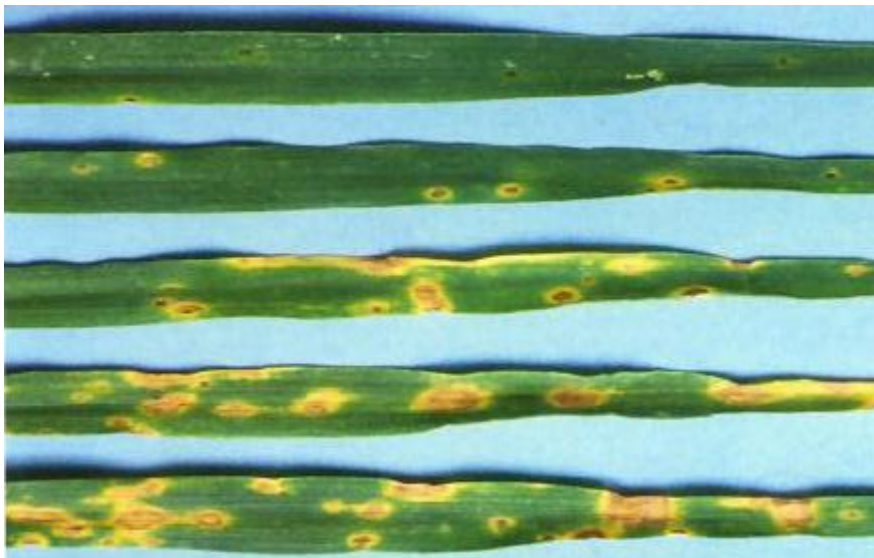
We are taking weekly sweeps in our alfalfa plots at the University of Manitoba research farm, using the protocol above, to assess levels, stages and dominant species of some of the common beneficial insects. For lady beetles, the seven-spotted and variegated lady beetles are currently the most common, and it is just the adults that we are collecting. For green lacewings, we are currently seeing both adults and larvae. We are also noticing a lot of minute pirate bugs and damsel bugs in the plots currently. This photo shows a lacewing larvae from the plots making lunch of an aphid.



Diseases

Scouting tips for tan spot

Tan spot symptoms typically begin on the lower leaves and gradually progress into the mid- and upper canopy. The lesions are dark brown with a characteristic yellow halo. As they merge, these lesions can cause premature death of the affected leaves.

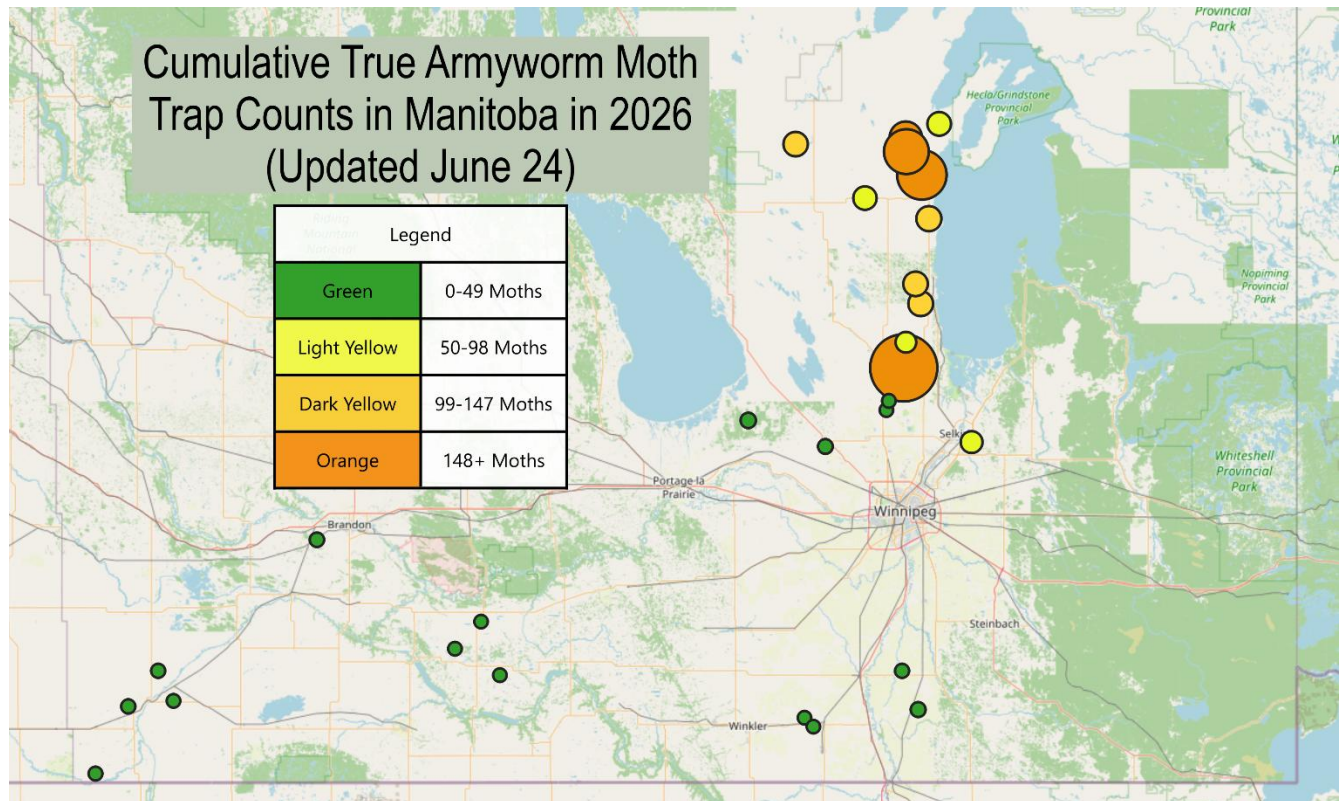


Tan spot in wheat. Photo from Diseases of Field Crops in Canada.

Forecasts

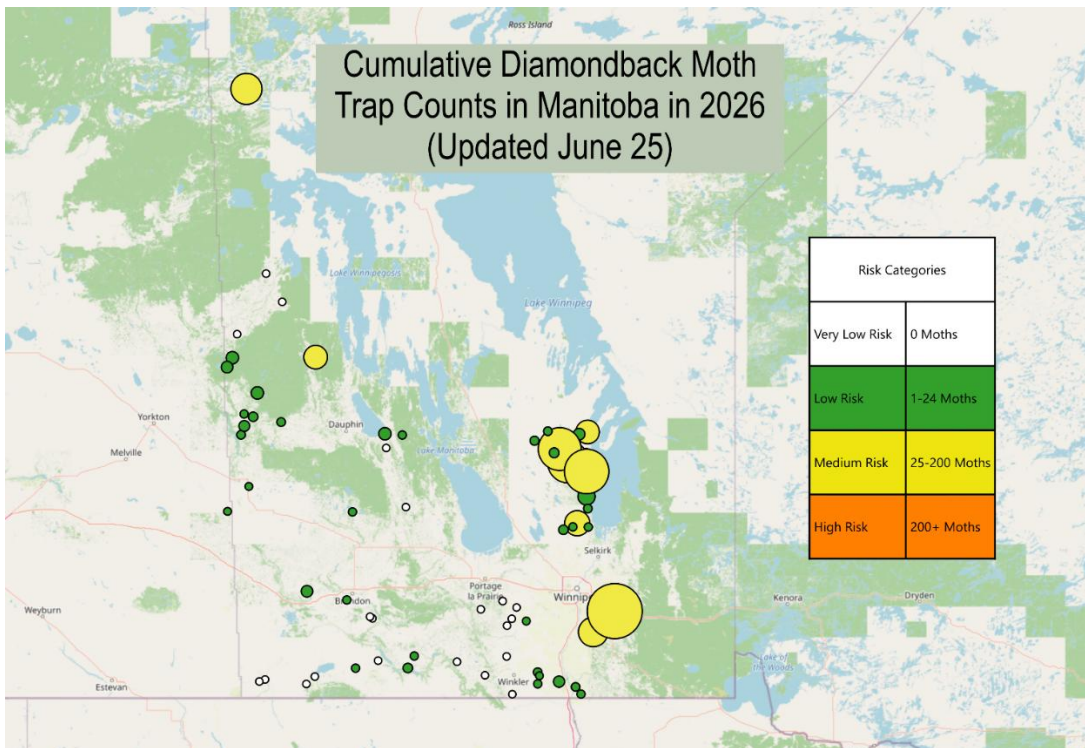
True Armyworm

Some high levels of true armyworm adults have been collected in pheromone-baited traps in the Interlake region earlier in the trapping period. Check for feeding injury or armyworm when scouting fields of cereal crops or forage grasses.



Diamondback Moth

Counts of adult diamondback moth have generally been low, and are less than 25 in 65 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, Tuelon 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 and cocoons have been noticed in some canola fields, but so far there have been no reports of economic levels or injury.



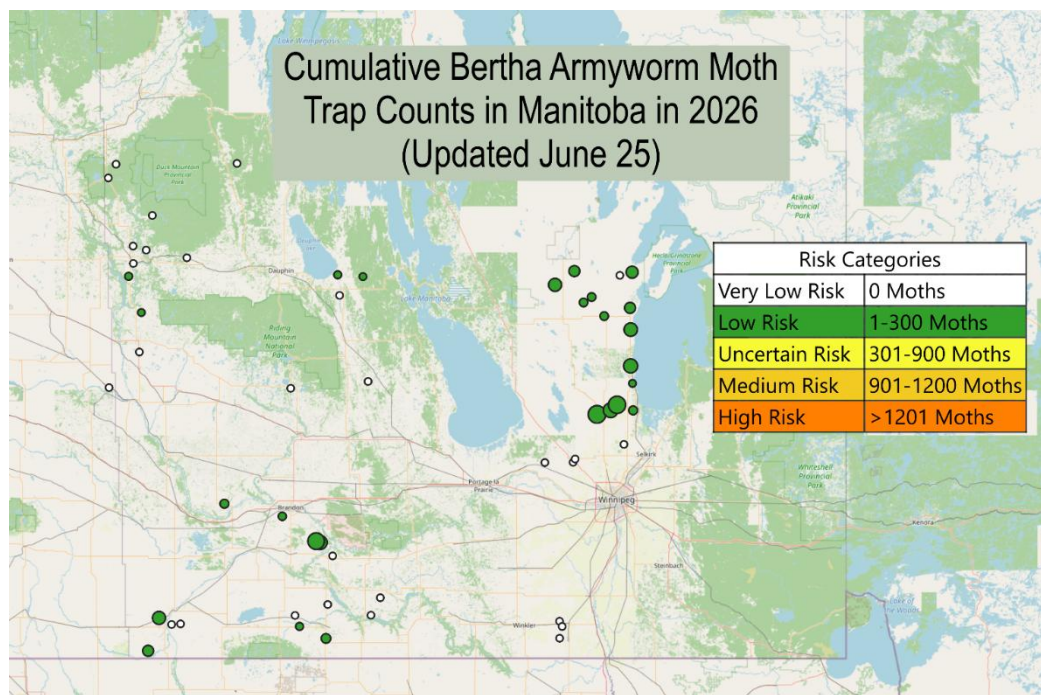
Highest trap counts of diamondback moth in each region and a monitoring summary are updated weekly on the Insect Page of the Manitoba Agriculture website at:

<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

Counts for bertha armyworm have been low in all traps so far, as shown on the following map:



Identification Quiz

This larva was found on oats, and will feed on the leaves. What is it?

Answer: This is the larva of cereal leaf beetle (*Oulema melanopus*). You may find them feeding on the leaves of cereal crops this time of year. Sometimes larvae will look black, like an oil droplet, because they are covered with a fecal coat.

Biological control has been quite successful in containing levels of cereal leaf beetle to low levels in Manitoba. Please let me (John Gavloski) know if you do encounter high levels of cereal leaf beetle.



Photo by Olivia DeBruyn –
Field 2 Field Agronomy

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