

Issue 8 – July 9, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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Summary

Insects: **Cabbage seedpod weevil** continues to be of concern, with insecticide applications having occurred in many areas. Levels of adults should naturally be declining. Larvae of **true armyworm** are being noticed in some cereal and forage grass fields in the Interlake, Eastern and Central regions. Higher levels of larvae, and insecticide applications to control true armyworm, have been reported in fall rye in the Southern Interlake region, and timothy in the Eastern region. Some high levels of **alfalfa weevil** were reported in the Eastern region. Alfalfa weevil larval levels should be starting to naturally decline as well, as they turn to pupae.

Diseases: As the wet humid growing conditions continue in some areas, growers are starting fungicide applications on the flag leaves for **leaf diseases in cereals**, for instance, suspected tan spot, septoria leaf spot and other leaf diseases were observed in cereal crops, and more applications are planned during anthesis for **Fusarium head blight (FHB)** management. Many producers have already completed fungicide applications on winter wheat and fall rye. Suspected **smut** was observed in a barley field in the southwest region. Some growers are preparing or have started to spray for **white mold (Sclerotinia)** in canola and light red kidneys. **Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC)** was noted in both soybean crops. Some pea fields are very close to flowering and producers are preparing for fungicide applications. Excessive moisture has been causing some yellowing and uneven growth patterns in some corn fields.

Entomology

Armyworms

Larvae of armyworms (*Mythimna unipuncta*), are becoming noticeable in some cereal and forage grass fields. This species of armyworm is sometimes referred to as true armyworm. They prefer to lay their eggs in lush grasses. Some of the larvae are getting into their later instars, where they will do more feeding.

To monitor for armyworm larvae, at each stop shake the plants and look on the soil for larvae. Also look under plant debris, lumps of soil, and in soil cracks.



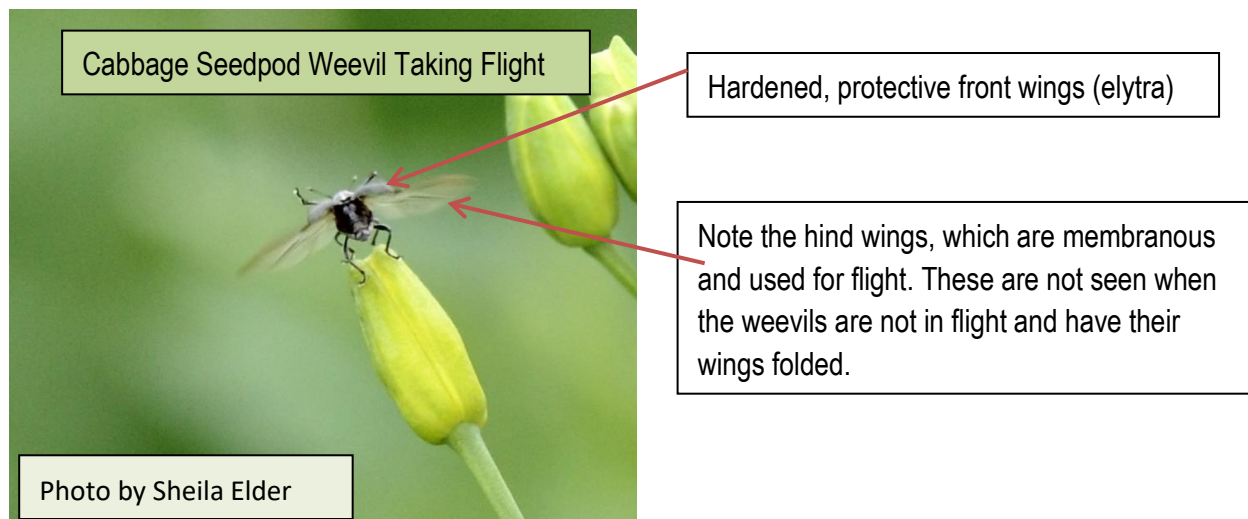
More information on true armyworm, including identification, monitoring and thresholds, can be found in the following Manitoba Agriculture factsheet: [armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf](#)

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

Cabbage seedpod weevil – reminder to use thresholds for management decisions

While cabbage seedpod weevil levels are currently in natural decline, there still could be some economical populations present. It is critical to do counts using a sweep net, and only apply insecticides if above the economic threshold (25 to 40 weevils per 10 sweeps on average), when making decisions regarding cabbage seedpod weevil management. Automatically tank mixing in an insecticide with a fungicide application, without knowing the levels of cabbage seedpod weevil, can have negative consequences in several ways if cabbage seedpod weevil are not at threshold levels.

A reminder that 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.



Where you can purchase a sweep net

In many fields we are now wrapping up monitoring for cabbage seedpod weevil, as canola advances beyond the recommended stages for monitoring, and levels of adult cabbage seedpod weevils naturally decline. A sweep net can come in handy for monitoring other insects though, and has become an essential tool for those monitoring field crops. The following factsheet provides information on what to look for in a sweep net, and Canadian and U.S. sources where they can be purchased: [purchasing-sweepnet-factsheet.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/plant-health/canadian-plant-health-council/factsheets/purchasing-sweepnet-factsheet.pdf)

Invasive insects

While out scouting crops, there are certain invasive insects that are good to be on the lookout for. Posters showing the most important invasive insects to report in each region of Canada have been prepared by the Insect Surveillance Community of Practice, a sub-committee of the Canadian Plant Health Council. For those in the prairie provinces, familiarize yourself with those insects on the poster for the prairie region. The Canadian Plant Council has recently launched a new website with this and lots of other valuable resources. Near the bottom of the following website you will see the poster for the Prairie region.

<https://planthealth-santevegetale.ca/resources-en>

Diseases

Fungicides for white mold and other diseases

Fungicide application for white mold (*Sclerotinia*) has begun on canola and light red kidneys. Growers should be using a fungicide that is good for controlling white mould and not just suppression. A site application has started in the Rathwell area and will be starting in the Carman area later this week. The fungicide tables in the Guide to Crop Protection 2026 are a great tool to look for the details of the products for *Sclerotinia* and other diseases (cereal leaf diseases, FHB, and many others) as well:

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

Smut

Suspected smut was observed in one barley field in the RM of Two Borders.



Photo Courtesy: Agronomist Team, A1 Agronomy.

Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC)

Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) continues to be noticeable in some soybean fields, especially visible or becoming more prominent in the wet areas.



Photo Courtesy: Simon Huang, Manitoba Agriculture.

Forecast

True Armyworm

Armyworms have been caught in 27 out of 28 traps. The highest cumulative counts so far have been in the Interlake region. Nine traps in the Interlake region have counts over 150, with a trap near Jaroslaw having a cumulative count of 530. Another four traps in the Interlake region have cumulative counts in the 99-147 moth range.

Armyworm larvae have been detected in the Interlake, Eastern and Central regions. There have been a couple of fields in the Interlake and Eastern regions where high larval populations were noted and control was applied. Looking for evidence of defoliation and larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses is recommended.

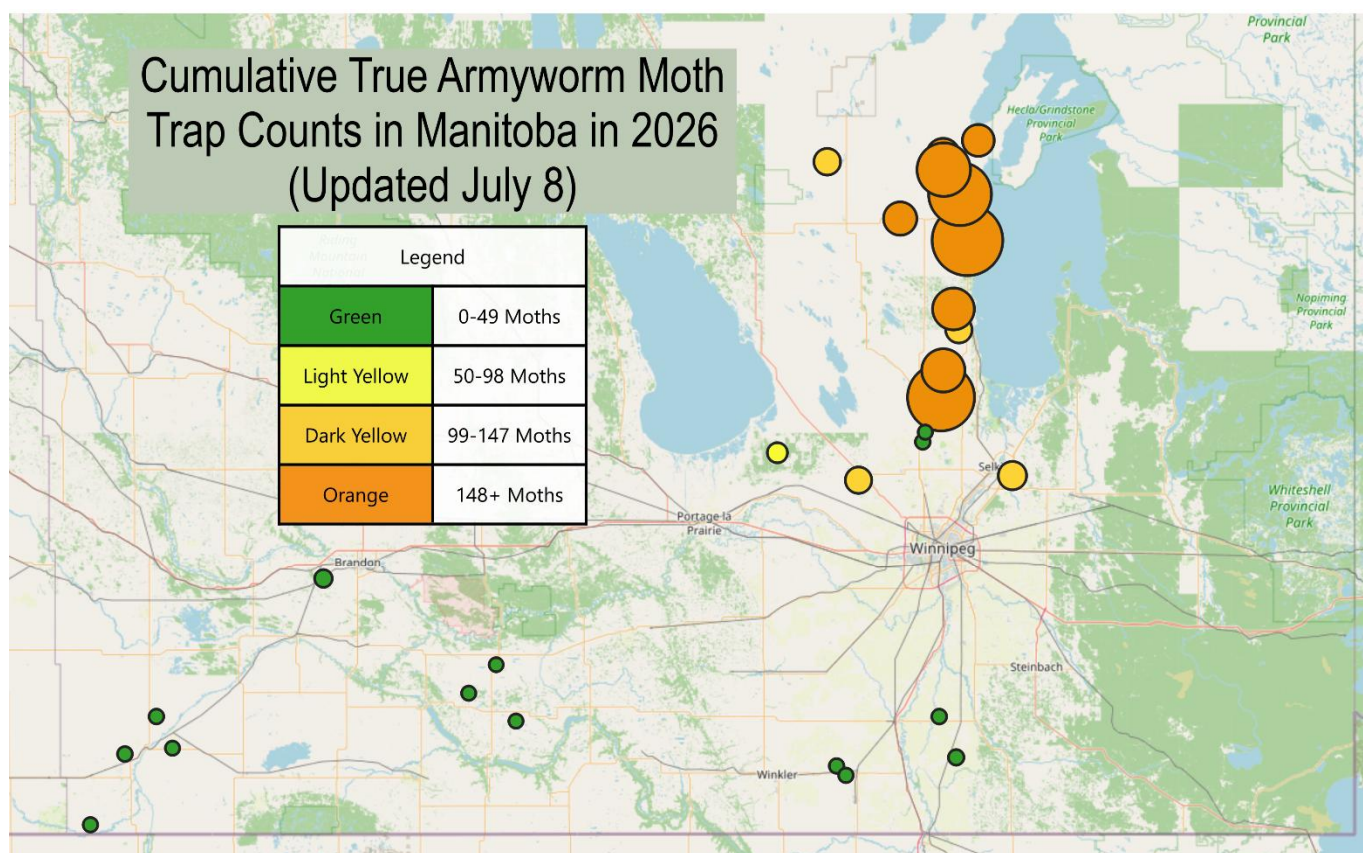


Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of true armyworm moths (*Mythimna unipuncta*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 8, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Jaroslawn	Interlake	530
Teulon	Interlake	495
Riverton	Interlake	457
Shorncliffe	Interlake	369
Pleasant Home	Interlake	273
Aspen Park	Interlake	259
Framnes	Interlake	180
Shorncliffe	Interlake	179
Washow Bay	Interlake	166
East Selkirk	Interlake	133

Diamondback Moth

Monitoring for adults of diamondback moth using pheromone-baited traps is now done for the season. Thanks to those who participated in the diamondback moth monitoring program. Diamondback moths were caught in 57 of the 74 traps. Cumulative counts in many traps were low, and less than 25 in 60 of the 74 traps. Some moderate counts occurred in traps in a few locations in both the Northwest and Interlake regions, as well as a couple of traps in the Eastern region. The highest cumulative trap count was 173 from a trap near Ste. Anne in the Eastern region.

Diamondback moth larvae and cocoons have been noticed in some canola fields. There have been no reports of economic levels of larvae.

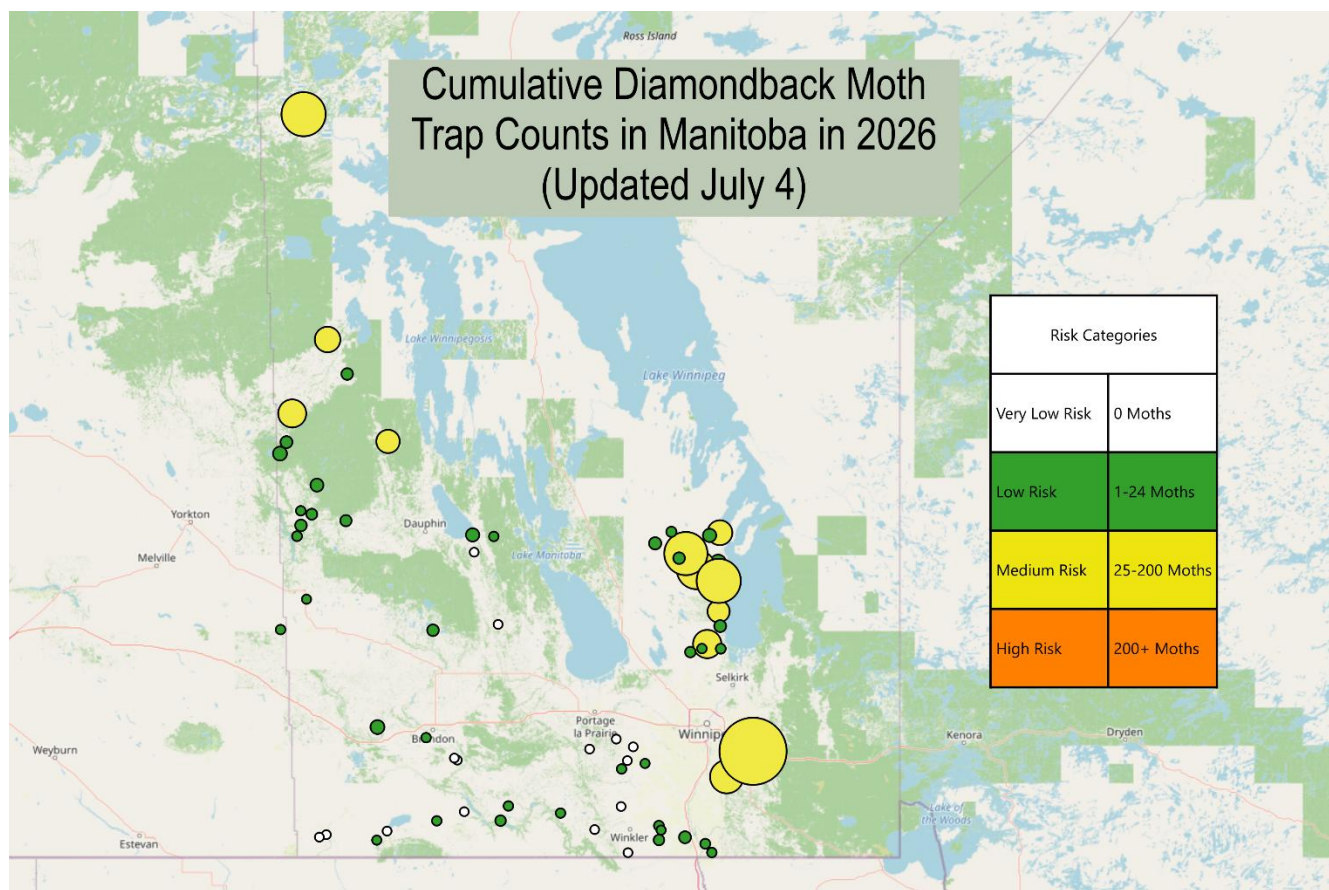


Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba as of July 4, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Ste. Anne	Eastern	173
The Pas (East)	Northwest	99
Arnes	North Interlake	99
Morweena	North Interlake	96
Arborg	North Interlake	83
Tourond	Eastern	64
Teulon	North Interlake	48
Durban	Northwest	47
Birch River	Northwest	39
Washow Bay	Northwest	37

Bertha Armyworm

Bertha armyworms have been found in 56 of the 61 traps so far. Cumulative counts remained in the low risk category in most traps, with the exception of a trap near Wawanessa in the Southwest region, which has a cumulative count of 535, in the uncertain risk category. There have been no reports of larvae of bertha armyworm so far.

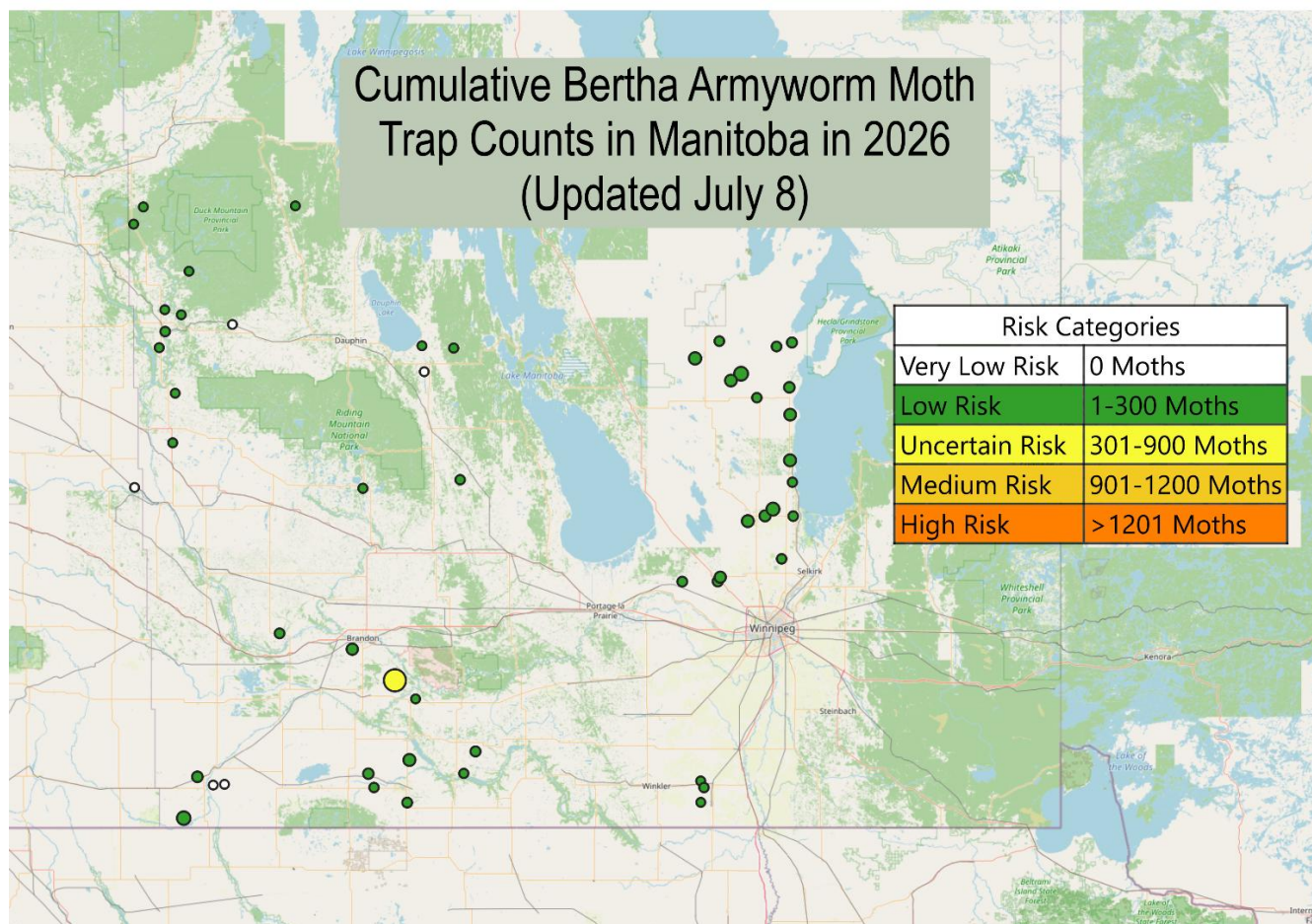


Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths (*Mamestra Configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 8, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Wawanesa	Southwest	535
Morweena	North Interlake	202
Lyleton	Southwest	190
Teulon	North Interlake	166
Fisher Branch	North Interlake	140
Cypress River	Southwest	128
Gimli	North Interlake	128
Teulon	North Interlake	125
Morweena	North Interlake	119
Arnes	North Interlake	117

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