

Issue 9 – July 16, 2026

# Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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## Summary

**Insects:** **True armyworm** are completing their first generation in some areas, as larvae are starting to pupate. Over the past two weeks, there have been reports of a few fields in the Interlake, Eastern and Northwest regions where high larval populations were noted and control was applied. **Soybean aphids** were found in a field in the Eastern region, but just at very low levels. Scouting continues for **wheat midge**, but so far there have been no reports of high levels or spraying. Levels of **cabbage seedpod weevil** have declined. Cabbage seedpod weevil adults naturally start dying this time of year.

**Diseases:** Crop development remains rapid across Manitoba, with fungicide applications a major focus this week. Frequent rainfall and wet field conditions have increased disease risk and limited field access in some areas. **Fusarium head blight** (FHB) fungicide applications are ongoing in cereals, while **Sclerotinia** fungicide applications continue in canola and other susceptible crops where fields remain within the application window. **Root rot** symptoms are showing up in flooded areas in canola fields. **Powdery mildew** and **wheat streak mosaic virus** (WSMV) are also observed in spring wheat. Pea crops are flowering to early pod development, with most producers having completed their first fungicide application. **Aphanomyces** and yellowed areas are easily seen now in pea crops.

## Entomology

### Soybean aphid – first report of season

Soybean aphids were found in a soybean field in the Beausejour area this week. Only low levels were reported. Overall, aphids have not been a big concern in field crops so far this year. The persistent heavy rains may be a contributing factor.

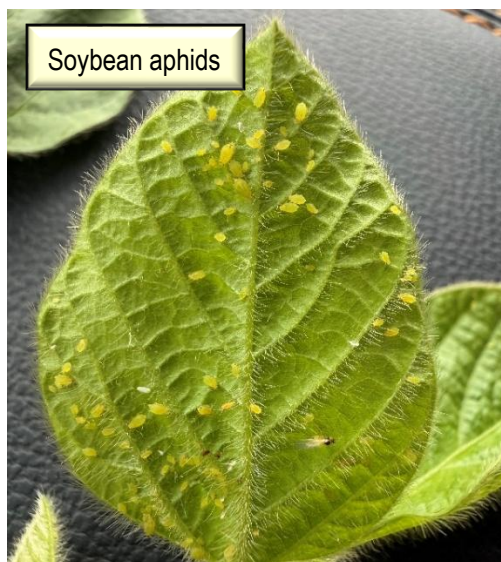


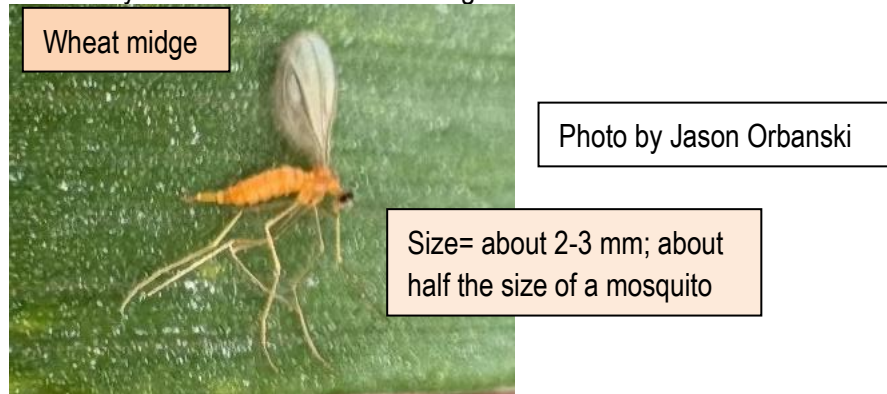
Photo by Jason Voogt –  
Field 2 Field Agronomy

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

Information on the biology and monitoring for soybean aphid can e found at:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/soybean-aphids.html>

## Wheat midge

A lot of the wheat is now likely too advanced for wheat midge to be of concern, however some of the later seeded wheat may still be at the vulnerable stages.



Peak flight for wheat midge in Manitoba is generally around mid-July.

Some considerations regarding scouting for wheat midge are:

- **Stage of susceptibility:** Wheat heads are most susceptible to damage when egg laying occurs during heading, from the time ears are just visible to when ears are fully emerged. Damage declines dramatically when egg-laying occurs after anthers are visible. Thus, fields most susceptible will be those that have heads exposed, but have not yet produced anthers.
- **Is your wheat midge tolerant?** There are many variety blends of wheat that have midge tolerance. If you are growing one of these, the larvae of wheat midge will not be able to damage the kernal. There are over 40 different variety blends that have midge tolerance, in 9 different classes of wheat, including 23 in the CWRS category. Some commonly grown red spring wheat variety blends such as AAC Starbuck and AAC Wheatland have midge tolerance. A list of variety blends with midge tolerance can be found at: <https://midgetolerantwheat.ca>
- **Timing of scouting:** If fields are in the susceptible stages, monitoring should be carried out from about 75 minutes prior to sunset until about 30 minutes after sunset, when female midge are most active. Females are more active when the temperature is above 15°C and wind speed is less than 10 km/h. The highest densities are often next to fields where wheat was grown in previous years.

More information on the biology, scouting and management of wheat midge is available from the Manitoba Agriculture factsheet on wheat midge: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/wheat-midge-factsheet-revised-may2024.pdf>

## Diseases

### Regional Situations

In the Southwest region, crops continue to grow rapidly, making it difficult for some producers to keep up with fungicide application timing. Wet field conditions have further complicated field operations and application opportunities. Many cereal fields are receiving fungicide applications due to the high Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk this season. Pea crops have fully canopied and are flowering, and most producers have completed their first fungicide application.

In the Central region, pea crops range from flowering to early pod development, and most producers have completed their first fungicide treatment. Sclerotinia fungicide applications continue where crops are within the recommended

application window. Recent rainfall events have increased disease concerns, and many producers are expected to apply fungicides to protect yield potential.

In the Eastern region, producers are focused on fungicide decision-making, crop scouting, and applying fungicides and insecticides where required. Persistently wet field conditions continue to limit access in some areas, resulting in increased reliance on aerial applicators. Fungicide applications for FHB are ongoing in cereal crops that remain within the recommended application window. Sclerotinia fungicide applications are also continuing where crop staging and conditions support treatment.

In the Interlake region, most herbicide applications have been completed. Fungicide applications for FHB have begun as cereal crops enter susceptible growth stages.

### **Powdery Mildew**

Powdery mildew in spring wheat is a fungal disease that thrives in cool and humid conditions, and is found in Southwest Manitoba. Consider appropriate foliar fungicide application if the disease moves up toward the flag leaf during critical growth stages.



Powdery mildew in spring wheat in Oakland-Wawanesa.

Photo Courtesy: Sheila Elder.

### **Wheat streak mosaic virus**

Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV) is confirmed in spring wheat in Stanley. The foxtail barley within the field (see the photo on the right below) is suspected to serve as the "green bridge", allowing the virus and its vector to survive between growing seasons, though no wheat curl mite is observed during visit.



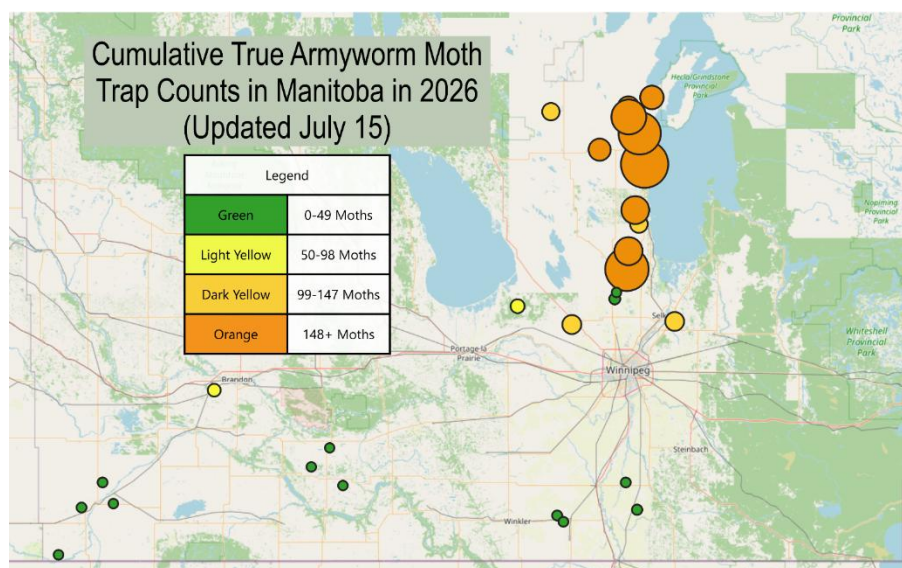
Photo Courtesy: Holly Derksen, Nutrien Ag Solution.

## Forecast

### True Armyworm

Larvae of true armyworms, *Mythimna unipuncta*, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. Pheromone-baited traps, which attract the male moths, are established for a 12-week period from early-May until late-July to detect the arrival of populations of armyworms early in the season. Traps have been set up at 28 locations in Manitoba. Armyworms have been caught in 27 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 558. 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, Central and Northwest regions. There have been reports of a few fields in the Interlake, Eastern and Northwest 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.



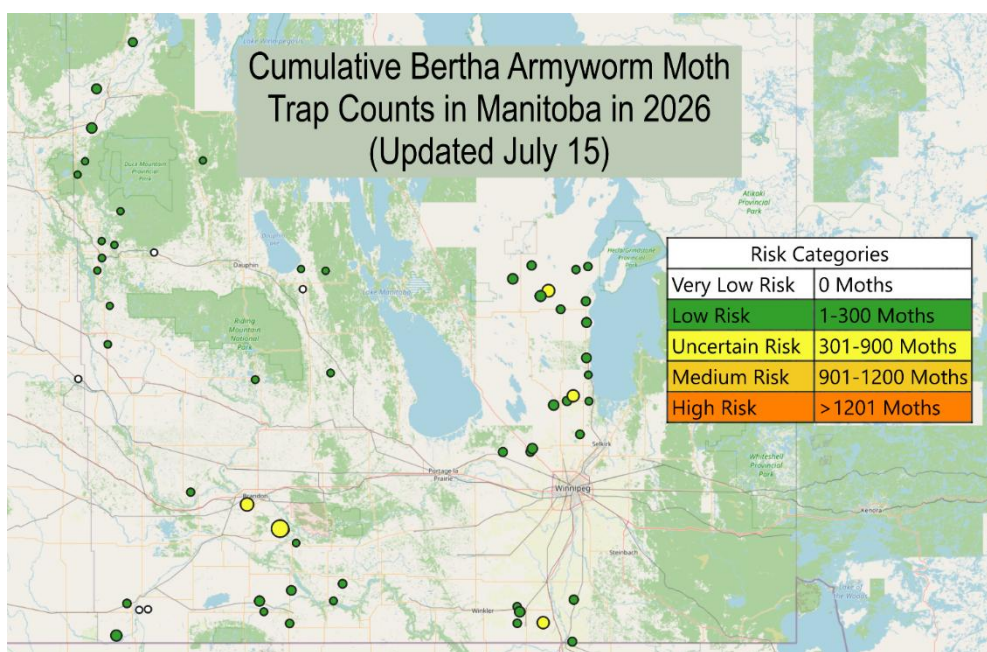
**Table 1.** Highest cumulative counts of true armyworm moths (*Mythimna unipuncta*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 15, 2026

| Nearest Town  | Region    | Cumulative Count |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| Jaroslawn     | Interlake | 558              |
| Teulon        | Interlake | 502              |
| Riverton      | Interlake | 486              |
| Shorncliffe   | Interlake | 375              |
| Pleasant Home | Interlake | 274              |
| Aspen Park    | Interlake | 271              |
| Washow Bay    | Interlake | 206              |
| Framnes       | Interlake | 186              |
| Shorncliffe   | Interlake | 179              |
| Warren        | Interlake | 140              |

## Bertha Armyworm

The population of adult moths of bertha armyworms are monitored using pheromone-baited traps during the flight and egg-laying period, from about early-June through July. Bertha armyworms have been found in 59 of the 64 traps that counts were reported from. Cumulative counts remained in the low risk category in most traps, although a few traps have cumulative counts in the uncertain risk category. These include traps near Wawanesa and Brandon in the Southwest region, Morweena and Teulon in the Interlake region, and St. Joseph in the Central region. The highest cumulative trap count is 628 from a trap near Wawanesa in the Southwest region.

Larvae of bertha armyworm have been noticed; those found in canola plots near Carman are still quite small, with some getting towards the middle of their 6 instar stages. So far, there have been no reports of high or economical populations of larvae of bertha armyworm, but scouting is encouraged as we move into late-July. The later instar larvae are the most damaging stages.



**Table 2.** Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths (*Mamestra configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 15, 2026

| Nearest Town  | Region          | Cumulative Count |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Wawanesa      | Southwest       | 628              |
| Brandon       | Southwest       | 381              |
| Morweena      | North Interlake | 340              |
| St. Joseph    | Central         | 309              |
| Teulon        | North Interlake | 305              |
| Lyleton       | Southwest       | 247              |
| Morweena      | North Interlake | 229              |
| Wawanesa      | Southwest       | 215              |
| Rosenfeld     | Central         | 201              |
| Fisher Branch | North Interlake | 197              |

## Identification Quiz: Alligators in your crops?

The following two alligator-shaped insects can often be found in many crops and wild plant habitats. What are they?



**Answer:** The photo on the left is a larvae of a lady beetle, and the larvae on the right is the larvae of a green lacewing, consuming a juvenile Lygus bug. Lady beetle larvae are black, and different species may have white, yellow, orange, or red markings. Green lacewing larvae are cream-coloured with brown markings and sickle-shaped mandibles. There are 66 species of lady beetles found in Manitoba (and 162 species in Canada), and 26 species of green lacewings found in Canada.

Both lady beetle and lacewing larvae are beneficials, because they feed on pest insects. Lady beetle larvae feed on aphids, with one Ontario study showing that at high soybean aphid densities, a third instar seven-spotted lady beetle larva eats around 105 aphids per day. Green lacewing larvae also feed on aphids, along with the eggs of other pest species, such as the Colorado potato beetle, and diamondback moth. Green lacewing larvae can consume around 36 soybean aphids per day, and developing larvae will consume a total of 100 to 600 aphids before pupating.

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