

Issue 10 – July 23, 2026

Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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Summary

Insects: High levels of **true armyworm** were present in some fields of fall rye, winter wheat and forage grasses in the Northwest region, and wheat in the Eastern region, resulting in control being needed in some fields. **Wheat midge** reached economic thresholds in some later seeded wheat in the Northwest region. A few fields of peas were sprayed for **pea aphids** in the Central region. **Grasshoppers** levels are high in pockets of wheat and soybeans in the Northwest region, but in some areas of Manitoba grasshopper levels have been reported as low.

Diseases: Most fungicide applications for **Fusarium head blight (FHB)** are complete, but may still continue in some cereal crops. In most reported cases, only one or two, or a few kernels are damaged by FHB. **Bacterial leaf streak** remains prevalent in some cereal fields. **Verticillium stripe** starts to be reported in canola, and the risk of **Sclerotinia** may be high in some canola fields. No major disease reports in soybean and pulse.

Weeds: With weed control operations finished we can see large weeds now that have escaped control. There are several reasons for this; they may be resistant, were too big at time of spraying, emerged after spraying and there was no residual control of that weed, or mechanical reasons like spray misses or plugged nozzles. Try to determine why there are weed escapes. DO NOT let resistant weeds set seed, as adding to the resistant weed seedbank only makes weed control more difficult in the future.

Entomology

Cabbage seedpod weevil update

Adult levels of cabbage seedpod weevil are now a trace of what they were at the beginning of the month. Larvae are now starting to be noticed in some of the pods. The photo below was taken at the University of Manitoba research farm in Carman, from a plot that was borderline economic threshold. After opening a lot of pods we could only find 4 larvae, although egg hatch may not be complete.



Armyworms – how long do the larvae live?

The length of time armyworms spend as larvae depends on the temperature. In studies where larvae were kept at a constant temperature, larval stages lasted 16 days at 29 degrees Celsius, 26 days at 21 degrees Celsius, and 40 days at 17 degrees Celsius.

The length of time as pupae also depends on temperature; about 9 days at a constant temperature of 29 degrees Celsius, and 24 days at a constant temperature of 17 degrees Celsius.

There are usually two generations per summer in Canada with the first generation doing the greatest damage in late June and July.

When scouting for armyworms, note that the later stages of the larvae are nocturnal, feeding at night and hiding on the surface, often under debris, during the day.



More information on the biology, monitoring, and thresholds for armyworms can be found at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/true-armyworm.html>

Grasshopper Update

The staging of the pest species of grasshoppers is quite variable currently. Some grasshoppers have moved into their later nymph stages, and low levels of adults of the pest species of grasshoppers are just starting to be seen. In many areas, levels of grasshoppers so far have been reported as light, although there are some areas with higher levels reported from the Northwest region.

The following photos were taken July 22, and show a couple of the stages of two-striped grasshopper.



Fourth instar two-striped grasshopper.

Note the small, developing wingbud.

This grasshopper is in the fourth of its five nymph stages, and is still not capable of flight.



Adult two-striped grasshopper.

Note fully developed wings.

Corn Rootworm – Monitoring Adults in Higher Risk Fields

Northern and western corn rootworm are beetles whose larvae feed on corn roots, and only corn roots. In fields where corn is rotated with other crops, they should not be present. The problem comes when corn is not rotated and planted in the same field for multiple years in a row. Such fields are at higher risk of corn rootworm becoming an economical problem. If root feeding is severe enough, plants lodge, continue to grow, and end up with curved stems. This can make harvest difficult if it is common.

Yellow sticky cards can be put in the field to monitor what the levels of northern and western corn rootworm adults are like and determine if measures to address corn rootworm should be taken. The protocol is simple: set up a transect of 4 traps in a field of interest, count the number of western and northern corn rootworms (separately) on each sticky trap once per week, and repeat this process for 4 weeks. Results from the trapping are compiled by a multi province/state network of entomologists and agronomists working on corn rootworm called the Corn Rootworm Monitoring Network.



Anyone with or scouting fields for corn with a long history of being in corn can contact John Gavloski, by email or the phone number at the bottom of this report, and I can provide traps, instructions, or get traps placed if in the vicinity of Carman.



Northern corn rootworm



Western corn rootworm

Beneficial Insects Update

While monitoring for beneficial insects in our alfalfa and canola plots at Carman, levels of both adults and nymphs of minute pirate bug were quite high and easy to collect in sweep net samples. Being quite small, you had to look carefully to see them.

Both adults and larvae lady beetles, green lacewings, damsel bugs and hover flies were present.



Minute pirate bug

Diseases

Fusarium head blight

Almost all cereal fields have received fungicide applications due to the high fusarium head blight (FHB) risk this season. In most reported cases, only one or two, or a few kernels are damaged by FHB in cereal crops.



FHB symptoms in a few kernels and awns.
Photo Courtesy: Lionel Kaskiw



Closer look of FHB damaged kernels.
Photo Courtesy: Jason Voogt, Field 2 Field Agronomy Inc.

Bacterial leaf streak

In some cereal fields, bacterial leaf streak is quite prevalent in the crops. Stay aware of and record what is showing up, and trace back to the seed source if bacterial leaf streak is very severe in a specific variety or field.



Bacterial leaf streak in flag leaf sheath.
Photo Courtesy: Sheila Elder



Severe bacterial leaf streak.
Photo Courtesy: Callum Morrison

Verticillium stripe

Verticillium stripe risk is high and has shown up in some canola fields.



Photo Courtesy: Agronomist Team, A1 Agronomy.

Weeds

Waterhemp

Be on the lookout for waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. If they've escaped control they are most likely resistant to commonly used herbicide groups 2 and 9 and possibly others. Testing can be done now to determine the pigweed species and also to check for resistance. Contact me directly to see how this is done – text 431-344-0239 or email kim.brown@gov.mb.ca.

Wild Oats

We are seeing a lot of wild oats sticking up above the crops now, similar to 2025. Testing for Group 1, 2 and 15 resistance can only be done with mature, viable seed. Seed can be gathered closer to grain harvest using a sweep net or by stripping the wild oats off the plants by hand. Some information on how to gather and where to send weed seeds for testing can be found here: [Wild Oat Resistance Committee](#) -. If possible mow patches now to prevent the seed from maturing and adding to the weed seedbank.

Forecast

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 28 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 571. Another four traps in the Interlake region have cumulative counts in the 99-147 moth range.

There have been some fields in the Northwest, 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.

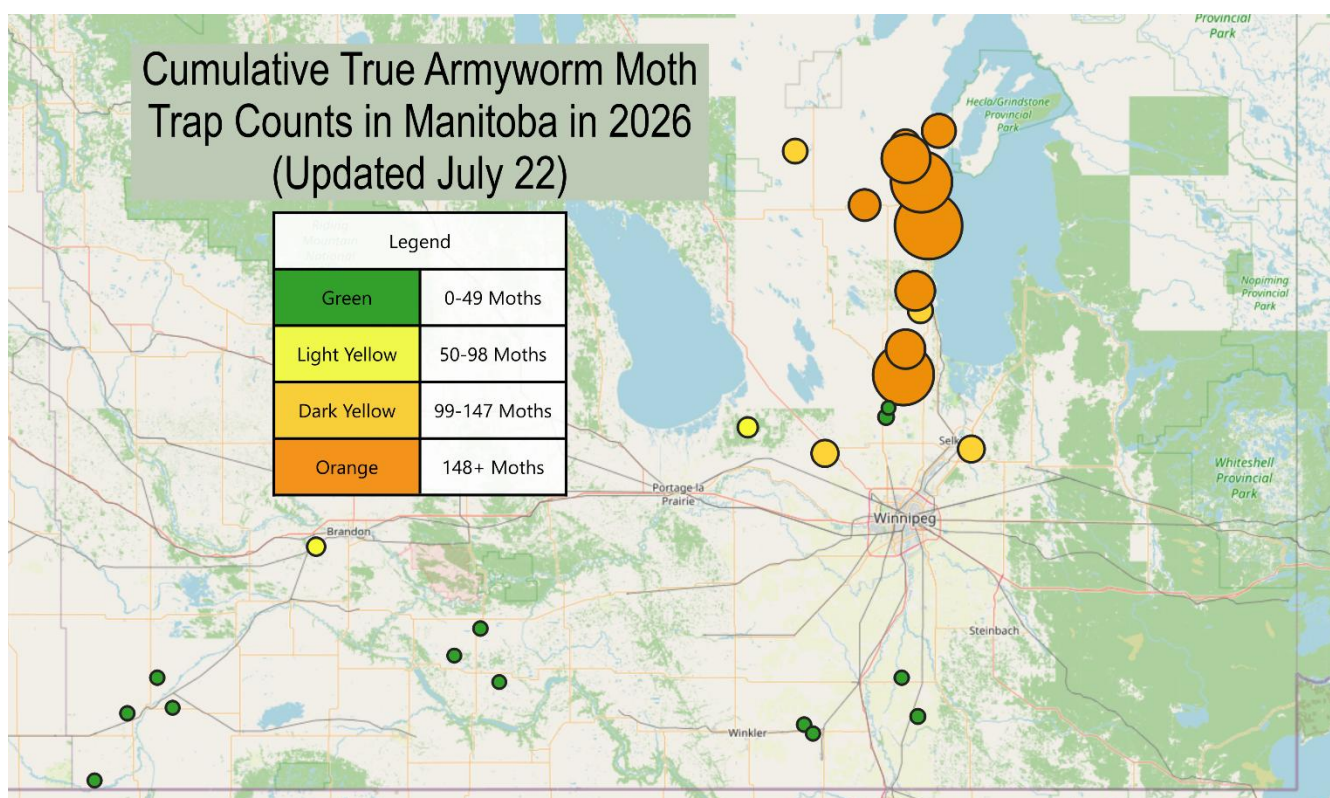


Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of true armyworm moths (*Mythimna unipuncta*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 22, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Jaroslaw	Interlake	571
Riverton	Interlake	506
Teulon	Interlake	503
Shorncliffe	Interlake	375
Aspen Park	Interlake	277
Pleasant Home	Interlake	274
Washow Bay	Interlake	215

Framnes	Interlake	191
Shorncliffe	Interlake	179
Warren	Interlake	143

Results from the true armyworm traps are also being entered and mapped on the Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network website:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7164d23d488246d198dcf7a07d8c9021/page/Home/?views=Welcome>

To view the data, select TAW. The “Play” button at the bottom can be set so the map automatically advances (click middle arrow), or set to “Stop” and the arrows at either side of the button can be used to go forward or backward a week at a time. Larger dots mean more moths trapped. A Legend is provided to help interpret dot size.

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 60 of the 64 traps that counts were reported from. Cumulative counts remained in the low risk category in most traps, although seven traps have cumulative counts in the uncertain risk category. These include traps near Durban and Swan River in the Northwest region, 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 646 from a trap near Wawanesa in the Southwest region.

Larvae of bertha armyworm have been noticed, but so far there have been no reports of high or economical populations of larvae of bertha armyworm. Scouting for larvae is encouraged. The later instar larvae are the most damaging stages.

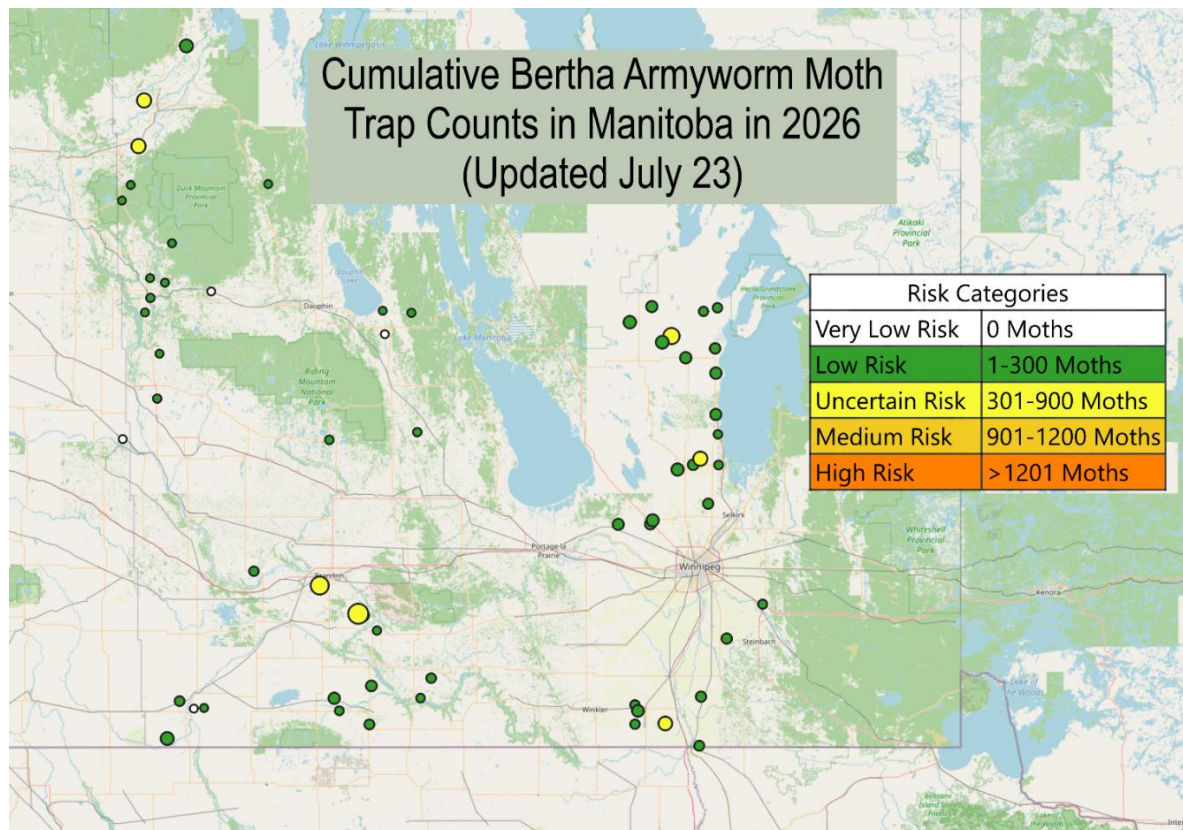


Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths (*Mamestra configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps in Manitoba, as of July 23, 2026

Nearest Town	Region	Cumulative Count
Wawanesa	Southwest	646
Morweena	North Interlake	537
Brandon	Southwest	381
Durban	Northwest	339
Swan River	Northwest	337
Teulon	North Interlake	333
St. Joseph	Central	309
Birch River	Northwest	269
Lyleton	Southwest	268
Morweena	North Interlake	260

Highest trap counts of bertha armyworm 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/bertha-armyworm-trap%20results.pdf>

Counts are normally updated every Thursday morning, but the website may be updated more frequently if higher counts come in.

A reminder that next week (July 26 - August 1) is the last week of counts from the bertha armyworm and true armyworm traps. Traps can be removed after counts for next week are done.

Identification Quiz

Question: Clusters such as these are being noticed in some of the cereal crops. The usual question is “what are these eggs”.

What could these clusters be?



Photo by Ron Medwid

Answer: These are pupal cases of a parasitoid of caterpillars called *Cotesia* (Braconidae). Often *Cotesia* wasps will lay many eggs (20 to 60) into a caterpillar. This genus of Braconids is known to inject polydnaviruses into the

host along with the eggs. These suppress the immune system of the host. Infected caterpillars don't form a cocoon, but instead can reach extremely high weights.

About 2 or 3 weeks after eggs were laid into the caterpillar, the wasp larvae emerge from the caterpillar, which dies when the wasp larvae emerge. Emergence of the multiple larvae happens over quite a short period of time. Then they spin their cocoons on or near the caterpillar, forming a cluster of pupal cases, which can be quite visible at the top of plants. People often mistake these for eggs.

Eventually the adult parasitic wasps will emerge from these cocoons and be looking for more caterpillars to lay batches of eggs into.

Next Report: Note that next week the Manitoba Crop Pest Update will come out on Friday July 31, rather than on Thursday, as some of the producers of the update will be at Horticulture School in Brandon on Thursday.

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