

# Manitoba Crop Pest Update

## Issue 6: June 29, 2022

### Summary

**Insects:** Foliar insecticide applications for flea beetles in canola continue, although some canola is advancing through the more vulnerable stages. Flea beetle management has been challenging this year, with some canola fields receiving multiple insecticide applications, and some reseeding occurring. Control of grasshopper nymphs continues in some areas. There have been reports of seedcorn maggot showing up in some of the areas that received excessive moisture. White heads from wheat stem maggot has also been reported; in one instance quite widespread in a field of northern wheatgrass. Notching from pea leaf weevil has been quite noticeable in some fields in the northwest during the survey for this insect.

**Weeds:** Weed growth has been rapid in the last week with ample moisture and heat. Windy conditions have made spraying challenging but for the most part sprayers have been able to meet the demand. Spraying in wet fields meant leaving ruts and unsprayed areas that were too wet to get to. Product shortages, particularly glufosinate for herbicide-tolerant canola, have added to the challenging conditions. Weeds that seem to be everywhere this year include round-leaf mallow, Canada fleabane, prickly lettuce, biennial wormwood, thistles and dandelions.

### Entomology

**Seedcorn maggot:** In some of the areas of Manitoba that received excessive moisture, people are noticing poor emergence of some crops, and on further inspection noticed the presence of larvae of seedcorn maggots feeding on the seeds and coleoptile. This has been noticed in wheat, barley and peas. An interesting observation by an agronomist finding seedcorn maggot in a pea field was that seedcorn maggots were favoring the peas over the canola.

Seedcorn maggots are usually more of a problem in cool, wet springs, such as we had this year. Seedcorn maggots overwinter as pupae, and when they emerge as adults in the spring the females search for egg laying sites. The females are attracted to moist soils that



give off an odour of decaying organic matter, such as plant residues or areas where manure has been applied, or freshly tilled soil. If crop seeds are germinating close to the decaying organic matter, the maggot can move to the seeds and begin to feed.

Nothing can be done to rescue a damaged field unfortunately, except replanting if necessary. Seed treatments are available and can help minimize damage by seedcorn maggots in dry beans, soybeans and corn (the Guide to Field Crop Protection shows these). Also, the greater the gap between when green manure and/or manure is incorporated into the soil and when seed is planted in the same soil, the lower the risk of seedcorn maggot being present.

## Weeds

Be on the watch for Canada fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*), a winter or summer annual weed that is becoming more noticeable in Manitoba fields. Native to North America, it has evolved resistance to several herbicides including glyphosate. Canada fleabane can grow up to 5 feet tall, dispersing small fluffy seeds in the wind (like dandelion). Its seeds establish best from on the surface or very shallow depths, doing well in zero or low-tillage systems. Normally its easily controlled by herbicides, but watch for Canada fleabane in glyphosate-tolerant crops. Monitor how well your weed control program worked, be vigilant for weeds that are still present after a glyphosate application.



## Forecasts

**Diamondback moth.** A network of 52 pheromone-baited traps were monitored across Manitoba in May and June to determine how early and in what levels populations of diamondback moth arrive. Diamondback moth were found in 37 traps.

Levels were low until about mid-May. Since then, some moderate to high counts occurred in traps in the Eastern and Central regions. Counts have generally been low in Western Manitoba, with the first counts over 10 happening the week of June 19-25.

The highest cumulative trap count was 229 from a trap near Hadashville in the Eastern region. There are some areas in the Eastern and Central region where looking for larvae while crop scouting would be good to prioritize.

Thanks to all who participated in the diamondback moth monitoring program. Traps can be pulled after this week's counts are done.

**Table 1.** Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 29, 2022.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	Grandview	27
	Grandview	14
	Shortdale	7
	Russell, Bield, Grandview	5
Southwest	Rosburn, Miniota	12
	Rivers	10
	Brandon	8
Central	Altona	128
	Gnadenfeld	111
	Halbstadt	53
	Carman	37
Eastern	Hadashville	229
	Whitemouth	226
	Beausejour	205
	Stead	182
	Tournond	38
Interlake	Arborg	13
	Arborg	2

← Highest cumulative count

Highest counts 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/diamondback-moth-forecast.html>

**Armyworms** (*Mythimna unipuncta*). A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored from early-May until mid-July to determine how early and in what levels populations of armyworms have arrive. Some moderate counts have occurred from traps in Eastern and Central Manitoba. The highest cumulative count is 88, from a trap near Beausejour in the Eastern region. So far there have been no reports of larvae of armyworms being found in Manitoba.

Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of armyworms in pheromone-baited traps for agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 28, 2022.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	All traps with 0	
Southwest	Brookdale	5
	Brandon	6
Central	Rosenfeld	55
	Halbstadt	35
	Rosebank	18
Eastern	Beausejour	88
	Lac du Bonnet	55
	Dominion City	47



← Highest cumulative count

Highest counts in each region of Manitoba 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/true-armyworm-trap-results-june28-2022.pdf>

A map showing armyworm counts from Manitoba, Eastern Canada, and several Northeast U.S. states is available at: <https://arcg.is/0Lry5a>. Go to the link "TAW".

## Identification Quiz:

**Question:** Today's quiz is multiple choice. The beetle in this photo was found while looking for insects in a strawberry field last week. The beetle is:

- a) The invasive strawberry blossom weevil
- b) A predaceous species of soft-winged flower beetle
- c) The black-striped berry borer
- d) None of the above

**Answer:** If you guessed b, congratulations, you are correct. This is *Collops vittatus*, a species of soft-winged flower beetle that is sometimes referred to as the banded soft-winged flower beetle. You may have to look hard to identify them though, as they are only about 4-5 mm long. This, and some other species of *Collops*, are predaceous on some agricultural pests. *Collops vittatus* is one of the few insects that have been documented feeding on crucifer flea beetle, although they likely don't make up a big part of their diet. They can also be an important predator of aphids and other insects in alfalfa. Larvae are predaceous in the soil litter, but are rarely seen.



There is an insect called the strawberry blossom weevil, but it has never been found in Manitoba. Sampling to see if it may be present was the reason we were looking for insects in strawberries. There is no insect called the black-striped berry borer, just a figment of my imagination, so hopefully nobody guessed this.

### Compiled by:

Manitoba Agriculture Pest Management Specialists:

John Gavloski, Entomologist  
Phone: (204) 750-0594

David Kaminski, Field Crop Pathologist  
Phone: (204) 750-4248

Kim Brown, Weeds Specialist  
Phone: (431) 344-0239

John Heard, Crop Nutrition Specialist  
Phone: (204) 745-8093

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 the above contacts.

To be placed on an **E-mail list** so you will be notified immediately when new Manitoba Crop Pest Updates are posted, please contact John Gavloski at the address or numbers listed above.