

Risk Forecast for Bertha Armyworm in Manitoba in 2024



The population of adult moths of bertha armyworms are monitored using pheromone-baited traps during the flight and egg-laying period. The monitoring period extends from about early-June through July (June 9 to August 3 in 2024).

The cumulative moth counts from the traps, which are presented in the table below, can not predict what the level of larvae will be in the field a trap is in, but can be used, in conjunction with counts from other traps in a region, to determine areas of the province at higher risk and where increased monitoring of fields for larvae may be necessary.



Figure 1. Trap for monitoring bertha armyworm



Figure 2. Bertha armyworm moths

Summary (as of July 25, 2024)

Data from pheromone-baited traps for bertha armyworm has been reported from 82 locations in Manitoba.

- Counts remain in the low risk category in all traps. Cumulative counts are generally higher in the western part of Manitoba, and in a trap near Killarney the cumulative count is getting near the uncertain risk category. There was generally an increase in trap counts over the weeks of July 7-13 and July 14-20 (see Figure 3).
- Berth armyworms have been found in 79 out of 82 traps that counts were reported from so far.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 290 from a trap near Killarney in the Southwest region.

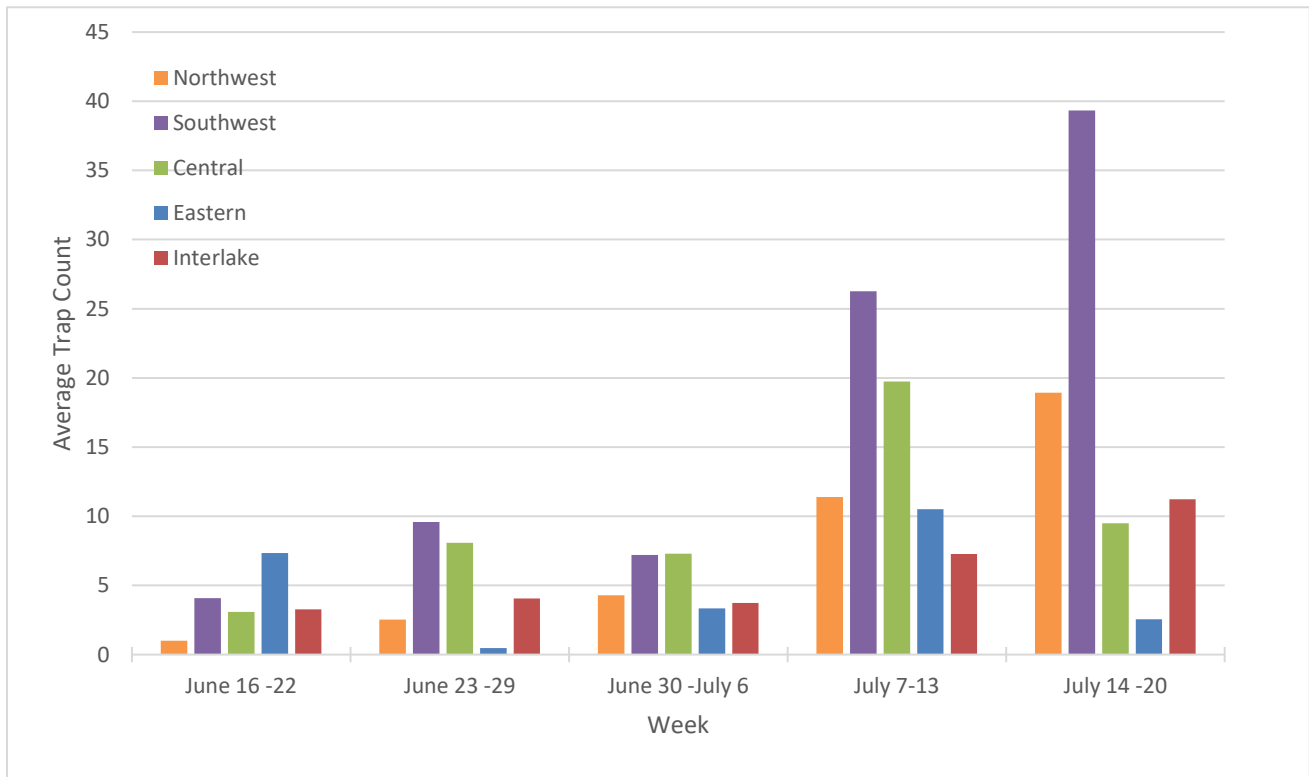


Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for Bertha armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of July 25, 2024.

0-300=low risk 300-900=uncertain risk 900-1,200=moderate risk 1,200+=high risk

Location	Count	Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest					
The Pas North	221	Makaroff South	43	Roblin North	21
The Pas East	82	Bowsman	42	Craigsford	20

Grandview	79	Minitonas	40	Deepdale	17
Bowsman North	72	Dropmore	38	Russell	17
Durban	53	Roblin South	24	Swan River	13
Birch River	45	Grandview	22	Grandview	7

Southwest

Killarney	290	Ninga	81	Belmont	16
Birtle	164	Brandon East	58	Cypress River	9
Decker	158	Rivers	38	Baldur	8
Whitehead	146	Pierson North	35	Glenboro	8
Crandall	95	Melita	33	Sandy Lake	8
Pierson East	87	Hilton	27	Elphinstone	5

Central

Morris	64	Wingham	45	Horndean	21
Haywood	57	St. Joseph	40	Altona	16
Elm Creek	47	Emerson	36	Rosenfeld	14
Starbuck	45	Fannystelle	30	Rosenort	4

Eastern

Whitemouth	56	Beausejour	35	Ste. Anne	17
Stead	43	Tourond	20	Hadashville	3

Interlake					
Teulon East	98	Silver Bay	60	Riverton	23
Silver Bay	85	Rockwood	52	Faulkner	17
Pleasant Home	81	Meadows	48	Rosser	17
Lundar	79	Teulon	42	Clandeboye	13
Gimli	69	Morweena	39	Ledwyn	11
Arborg	60	Vidir	32	Selkirk East	10

Interpreting Bertha Armyworm Cumulative Moth Counts

The following table relates the cumulative moth counts over the trapping period with the risk of larval infestation.

Cumulative number of Moths / Trap		
From	To	Larval Infestation Risk Level
0	300	Low - Infestations are unlikely to be widespread, but fields should be inspected for signs of insects or damage.
301	900	Uncertain - Infestations may not be widespread, but fields that were particularly attractive to egg-laying females could be infested. Check your fields.
901	1200	Moderate - Canola fields should be sampled regularly for larvae and for evidence of damage.
1200+		High - Canola fields should be sampled frequently for larvae and for evidence of damage.

For information on techniques to monitor levels of larvae of bertha armyworm, and economic thresholds, see:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/bertha-armyworm-factsheet.pdf>