

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2024



Larvae of armyworms, *Mythimna unipuncta*, sometimes called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. They do not overwinter in the Canadian prairie provinces, but large numbers can potentially migrate in. If conditions are favorable for their survival and reproduction when they arrive, and if natural enemies do not limit population establishment, populations can increase.

Pheromone-baited traps (Figure 1), 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. The cumulative counts from the traps cannot predict what levels of larvae will be, but can be used to determine regions of the province where increased attention for armyworms is recommended when scouting fields of cereals and forage grasses.



Figure 1. Trap for armyworms



Figure 2. Armyworm moth

Summary (as of June 19, 2024)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths have been set up at 43 locations in Manitoba in 2024.

- Counts have been low so far in the western regions of Manitoba, with some moderate counts in the Central region. Some higher counts have occurred in some of the traps in the Eastern and Interlake regions. Counts gradually got higher over a few week period in the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions, peaking during the week of June 9-15 (see Figure 3).
- Armyworms have been caught in 32 traps so far. Seventeen traps, three in the Central region, four in the Eastern region, and ten in the Interlake region, have caught over 25 armyworm moths.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 411 from a trap in the Eastern region near Dencross. There are some areas in the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions where looking for larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses would be good to prioritize.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of June 19, 2024.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest			
Russell	4	Grandview	0
Southwest			
West Pierson	23	Medora	8
Rivers	14	Glenboro	3
North Pierson	9	Belmont	2
Central			
Horndean	62	Morris	22
Altona	45	St. Joseph	17
Rosenfeld	32		
Eastern			
Dencross	411	Kleefeld	84
Beausejour	210	Lorette	24
New Bothwell	176		
Interlake			
Riverton	204	Balmoral	64
Washow Bay	154	East Selkirk	61
Moosehorn	96	Meadows	41
Fisher Branch	81	Gunton	39
Teulon	79	Clandeboyne	28

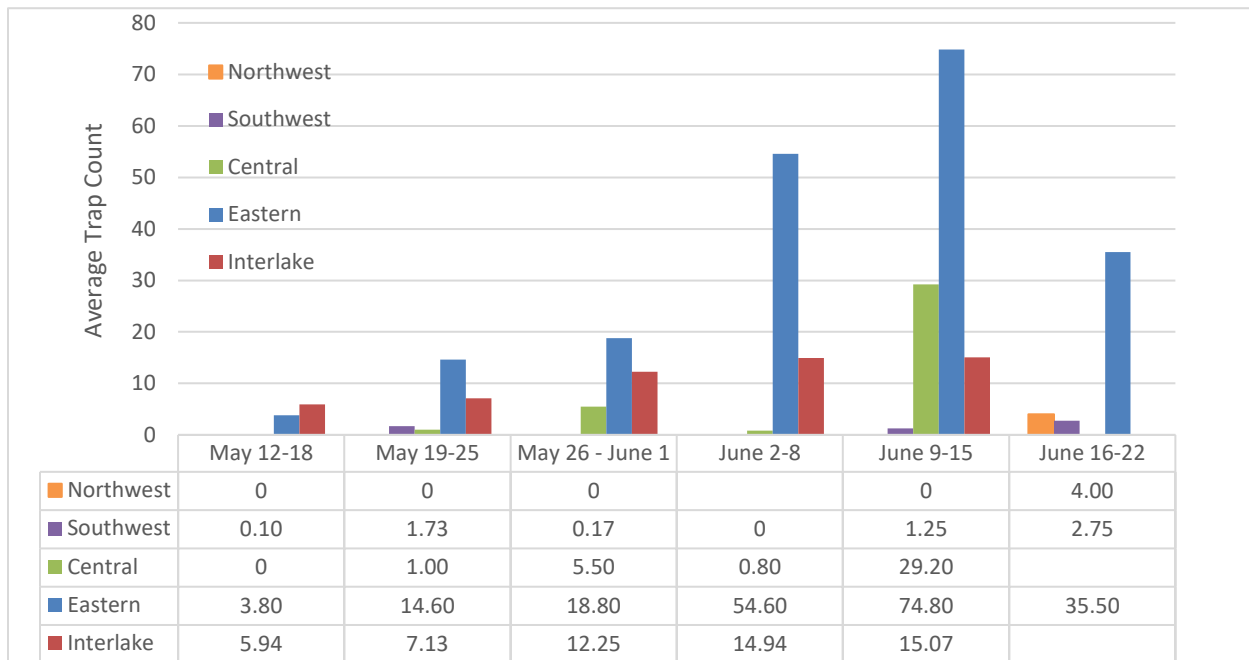


Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf>



Figure 4. Armyworm larvae