

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 July 24, 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 cumulative counts in the Central region. Some higher cumulative counts have occurred in some of the traps in the Eastern and Interlake regions, mainly from moths collected in the traps in June. Counts gradually got higher over a few week period in the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions, generally increasing and peaking during a three week period from about June 2 – 22 (see Figure 3). Late-June counts for these regions were lower, as were counts in July.
- Armyworms have been caught in 36 traps so far. Twenty traps, three in the Central region, five in the Eastern region, ten in the Interlake region, and two in the southwest, have caught over 25 armyworm moths.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 437 from a trap near Riverton in the Interlake region. 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. Armyworm larvae have been reported from the Central and Interlake regions, with some control applied in both the Central and Interlake regions.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of July 24, 2024.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest			
Russell	4	Grandview	0
Southwest			
Rivers	27	Belmont	5
North Pierson	26	Glenboro	5
West Pierson	23	Gladstone	1
Crandall	11	West Birtle	1
Medora	9		
Central			
Horndean	93	Morris	22
Rosenfeld	79	St. Joseph	17
Altona	73		
Eastern			
Dencross	429	Kleefeld	138
New Bothwell	270	Lorette	27
Beausejour	211		
Interlake			
Riverton	437	Moosehorn	112
Washow Bay	228	East Selkirk	103
Teulon	194	Meadows	79
Fisher Branch	136	Clandeboye	71
Balmoral	127	Gunton	43

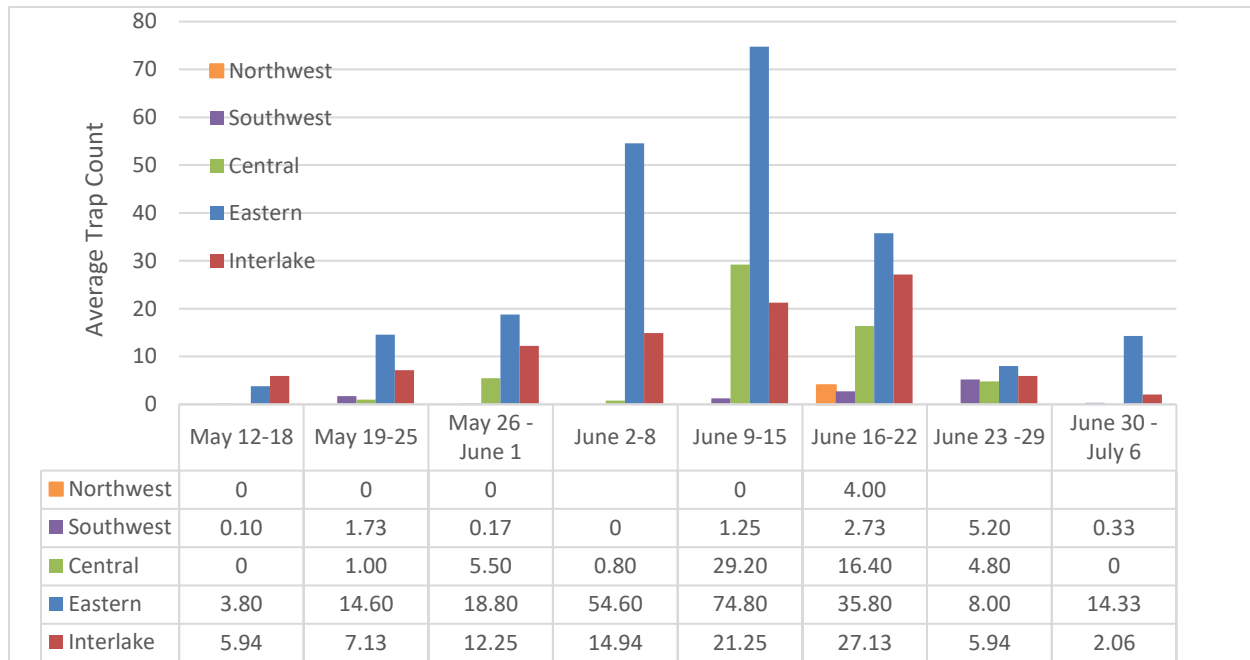


Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba

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