

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2022

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 (Fig. 1), which attract the male moths, are established for a 12 week period from early-May until mid-July to detect the arrival of populations of armyworms early in the season. The cumulative counts from the traps can not 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.



Fig. 1. Trap for armyworms



Fig. 2. Armyworm moth

Summary (as of June 28, 2022)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths have been set up at 11 locations in Manitoba in 2022.

- Some moderate counts have occurred in traps in the Eastern and Central regions.
- Armyworms have been caught in 8 traps so far. Five traps in the Eastern and Central region have caught over 30 armyworm moths.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 88 from a trap in the Eastern region near Beausejour. There are some areas in the Eastern and Central 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 over the trapping period (May 1 to June 28, 2022)

Location	Count
Northwest	
Silver Beach	0
Grandview	0
Southwest	
Brookdale	5
Brandon	6
Central	
Rosenfeld	55
Halbstadt	35
Rosebank	18
Eastern	
Beausejour	88
Lac du Bonnet	55
Dominion City	47
Randolph	0

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/true-armyworm.html>



Fig. 3. Armyworm larvae

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