Issue 7– July 3, 2025

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

Insects: Some feeding from **alfalfa weevil** is still evident, although levels of larvae should be dropping in many areas as they turn to pupae. Some late spraying for **flea beetles** was reported this past week on reseeded canola in the Interlake. There have been reports of **thrips** being quite noticeable in some crops, particularly in the western areas of Manitoba, although no reports of spraying for them. Some are commenting on the lower levels of **grasshoppers** this year. **Diamondback moth** larvae can be found in canola, but so far levels remain low, and there are no reports of populations needing control. Scouting for **cabbage seedpod weevil** in canola is encouraged, as the weevils can be easily found in many fields, although there are no reports from Manitoba of levels over the economic threshold.

Weeds: Herbicide applications are wrapping up in soybeans. Monitoring continues in all crops for weed escapes and misses. Depending on the weeds present and severity of infestation producers should consider destroying areas of crop that are weedy. This is especially important for resistant weeds that are prolific seed producers.

Entomology

Maintaining the yield boost from pollinators when controlling pest insects

If pest insects appear to be at economic levels in a crop that is flowering, extra considerations are necessary. Honey bees and other pollinators are likely to be active in any flowering crop.

When crops are flowering it is even more critical to use economic thresholds when available. Some crops such as canola and sunflowers can produce good yields without pollinators but will produce better yields with pollinators. So, applying an insecticide when insect pest levels are below economic thresholds may inadvertently decrease both yield and profit by reducing or eliminating the increase to yield that pollinators contribute. This is one of the reasons we highly discourage tank mixing in an insecticide when applying other pesticides to a flowering crop "just in case harmful insects are present". This is where good crop scouting can save you a lot of money by making sure you maximize the benefits from pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Kim Brown
Entomologist, Weeds Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture
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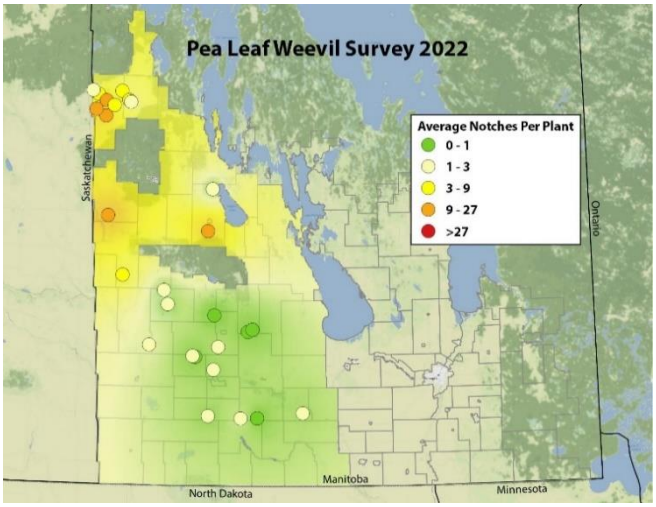
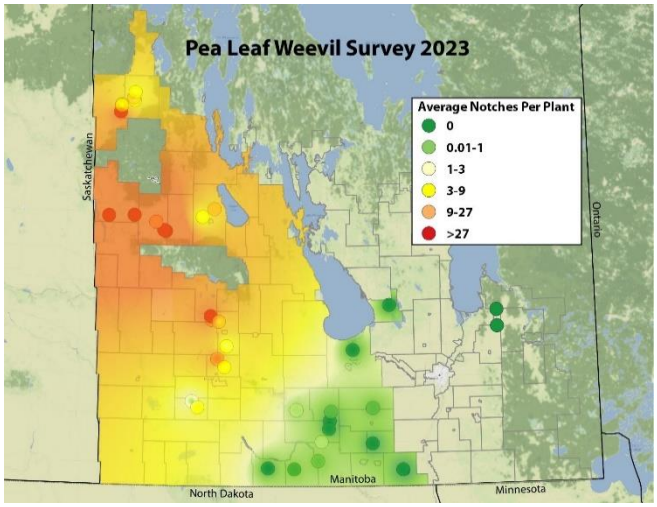
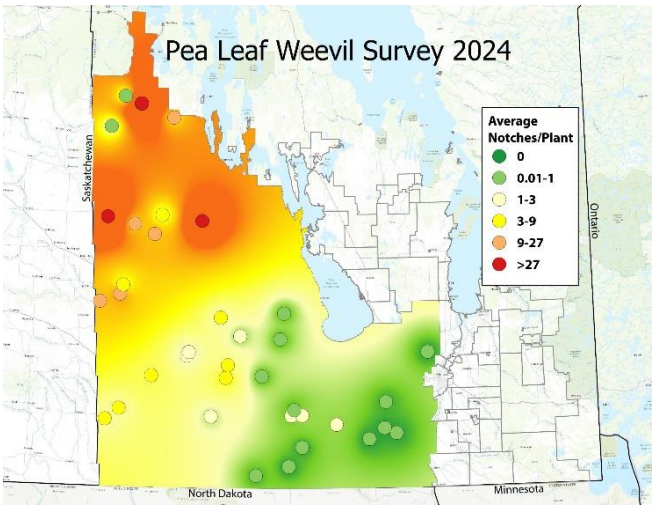
Communication between farmers, agronomists and beekeepers can help minimize harm to bees. An app called BeeConnected (http://www.beeconnected.ca/) can help connect farmers and beekeepers, and reduce the risk of insecticide harm to honey bees.

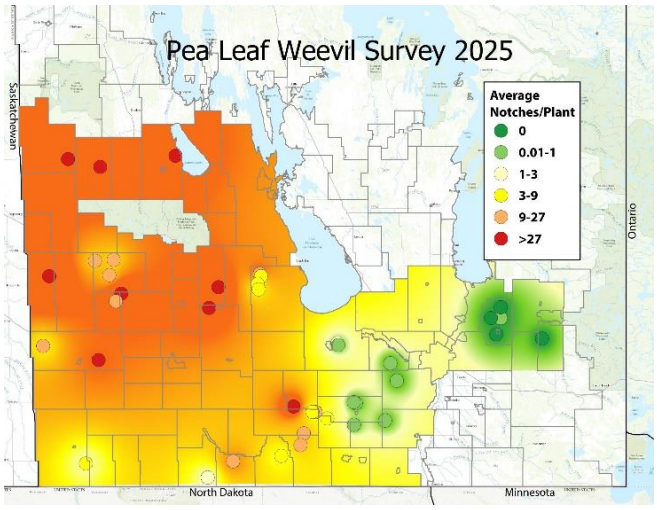
Pea leaf weevil survey results

The pea leaf weevil survey, where notches from adult feeding are counted on young plants, is now complete, and the data have been mapped (thanks to Ian Kirby with Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers for the mapping). The following series of maps from 2022 to 2025 shows how pea leaf weevil levels have increased and spread eastward in Manitoba over that period.









Some have been asking how long the larvae of pea leaf weevil feed. Eggs usually hatch after about 14 days, and larvae move to the nodules, where they chew a tiny hole, enter and feed on the nodules. The nodules contain the nitrogen fixing *Rhizobium* bacteria. Larval development typically takes 30 to 60 days. Peas and faba beans are the primary hosts of pea leaf weevil larva. Adults will feed on some additional plants but rarely do much damage.

Forecast

Diamondback moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored across Manitoba in May and June to determine how early and in what levels populations of diamondback moth occur. Diamondback moths have been found in 79 out of 93 traps that counts were reported from. There have been some higher cumulative counts in traps at some locations in the Northwest and central regions, and moderate counts at some locations in the Southwest, Eastern, and Interlake regions.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 254 from a trap north of Bowsman in the Northwest region. It is good to be looking for larvae of diamondback moth when scouting canola fields. Only trace amounts of larvae have been noticed so far.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions in Manitoba as of July 3, 2025.

Lower Risk: 0-25 Elevated Risk: 26-200 Higher level of moth catch: 200+

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	North Bowsman	254
	Togo	132
	West Bowsman	120
	Bowsman	116
Southwest	Melita	29
	Hartney	19
	Pierson, Whitehead	17
	Roseland	9
Central	Horndean	246
	Rosenfeld	164
	Carman	122
	Brunkild	107
Eastern	Ste. Anne	64
	Anola	32
	Tourond	10
	Lorrette, St. Malo	2
Interlake	Fisher Branch	109
	Pleasant Home	40
	Warren	39
	Faulkner	34

← Highest cumulative count

Highest trap counts of diamondback moth 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/pubs/diamondback-moth-trap-results.pdf
Counts are normally updated every Thursday morning, but the website may be updated more frequently if higher counts come in.

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Bertha Armyworm

The population of adult moths of bertha armyworms are being monitored during the flight and egg-laying period in June and July using pheromone-baited traps. Bertha armyworms have been found in 75 out of 82 traps that counts were reported from so far. Cumulative trap counts are all still in the low risk category.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 143 from a trap near Carman in the Central region.

Table 3. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions as of July 3, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	Makaroff	60
	Minitonas	19
	Bield	18
	Birchview, Dropmore, Russell, Shell Valley	10
	Angusville, The Pas	8
Southwest	Whitehead	99
	Metigoshe, Rapid City	60
	Kenton	53
	Lyleton	31
	Ninga	27
Central	Carman	143
	Emerson	57
	Baldur	30
	Brunkild, Haywood	23
	Cypress River	17
Eastern	Ste. Anne	4
	Tourond	2
Interlake	Pleasant Home	132
	Broad Valley	112
	Lundar	100
	Vidir	62
	Moosehorn	38

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

← 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/bertha-armyworm-monitoring.pdf

Information on the biology of bertha armyworm and monitoring larval levels can be found at:

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https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/bertha-armyworm-factsheet.pdf

True armyworms

Larvae of armyworms (*Mythimna unipuncta*), sometimes also called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. Adult moths of armyworms migrate to Manitoba in the spring from overwintering sites from the southern US. A network of pheromone-baited traps are being monitored from early-May until late-July to determine how early and in what levels populations of armyworms have arrive.

Armyworm moths have been caught in 30 of the 31 traps. The highest cumulative counts so far have been in the Interlake region, where there are three traps with cumulative counts over 100. All three traps in the Eastern region have cumulative counts ranging from 61 – 155. In the Southwest region there are three traps with cumulative counts between 39 – 44.

Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of armyworms in pheromone-baited traps for agricultural regions in Manitoba as of July 2, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Southwest	Lyleton, Pierson	44
	Brandon	39
	Isabella	14
	Melita	6
	Belmont	1
Central	Arnaud	9
	Ermerson	1
Eastern	Kleefeld	155
	New Bothwell	114
	Greenland	61
Interlake	Riverton	266
	Famnes	176
	Washow Bay	147
	Fisher Branch	63
	Zbaraz	61

← Highest cumulative count

Those scouting cereals and forage grasses may want to check to see what armyworm larval levels are like in their fields. Armyworm larvae have been noticed in some fields, and there has been some control in the Central region.

A map showing armyworm counts from Manitoba, Eastern Canada, and several Northeast U.S. states is available at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7164d23d488246d198dcf7a07d8c9021/page/Home/?views=Welcome. Go to the link "TAW". The "Play" button at the bottom can be set so the map automatically advances (click middle arrow), or set to "Stop" and the arrows at either side of the button used to go forward or backward a week at a time.

Identification Quiz

Question: What are these small orange butterflies seen flying around many flowering crops?

Answer: These are European skippers (*Thymelicus lineola*). European skippers were accidentally introduced into Canada over a century ago around 1910 at London, Ontario and first found in Manitoba in 1972.

The adult skippers are not a pest of anything, although you may see them on a variety of plants. Adult skippers feed on nectar and can be considered pollinators of flowers. They may fly in large groups, and at times can be extremely numerous.

The preferred food of the larvae is timothy, but some other grasses may also be hosts. The larvae are leaftiers. They produce silk strands between the outer edges of the leaves to pull them together and hold the leaf in a tight furl. This encloses the larva in a leafy tube in which it moves up and down to feed. Between their tying behaviour and their camouflaged colouring (green body marked with two longitudinal white lines), the larvae can be difficult to see when scouting. While they are generally not economic pests of timothy they are good to scout for early in the growing season. They only have 1 generation per year, so by the time you see the adults flying around, the larval stage is likely done for the year.

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 one of the following Manitoba Agriculture Pest Management Specialists.

John Gavloski, Entomologist (204) 750-0594
Kim Brown, Weed Specialist (431) 344-0239

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