Issue 8 – July 10, 2025

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Insects

Summary

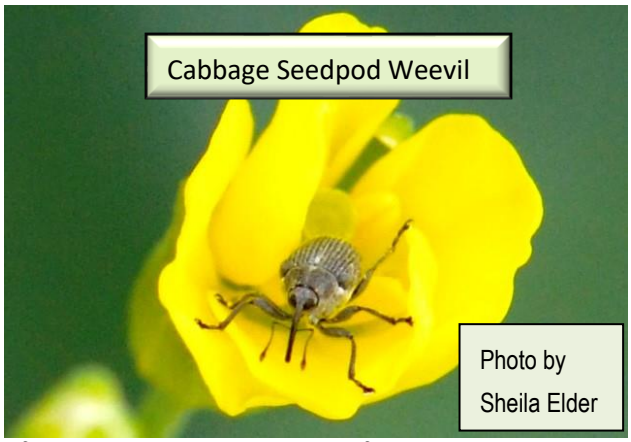
Insects: Overall, insect levels and damage have not been too high in field crops in Manitoba over the past week. A couple more fall rye fields were sprayed for **armyworms**, in the Central and Interlake regions. Some feeding by **alfalfa weevil** caused alfalfa to be cut earlier than normal. Alfalfa weevil larvae have been advancing out of their larval stages, and the damaging period for this year is coming to an end. Although **pea aphids** are being found in some pea fields, so far levels have been relatively low, and there have been no reports of control. **Soybean aphid** has not been reported yet in Manitoba. Eggs of **European corn borer** are starting to be noticed on corn, but so far no high corn borer levels have been reported. Frass and burrowing from **sunflower bud moth** is being noticed in some sunflower fields.

Weeds: There are some reports of non-Xtend soybeans showing potential dicamba drift. Symptoms include cupping and curling of leaves. Damage seems minimal and it is expected that soybeans will recover and outgrow the injury. Suspected waterhemp plants are being found as these plants have escaped herbicide control and are getting larger and more noticeable.

Entomology

Cabbage Seedpod Weevil

Samples from our cabbage seedpod weevil survey that have been processed so far show quite variable data, from 2 to a high of 226 cabbage seedpod weevils in 2025 sweeps. With one exception, all of the fields have been well below economic threshold levels of weevils, but counts are certainly much higher than previous years.



It is good to sweep canola when it is in the early-flowering stages to see what levels are like. The economic threshold for cabbage seedpod weevil in canola is 25 to 40 weevils per 10 sweeps. If below economic threshold, it is not advised to apply an insecticide for cabbage seedpod weevil. Applications for cabbage seedpod weevil occur during flowering, and there is a risk of harm to pollinators, which can be detrimental to both beekeepers and canola growers. Recall from last week's update that pollinators can increase the yield of canola, and reducing pollinator levels when potential pests are not at economic levels can have an overall negative effect on canola yields. If a flowering crop does need to be treated with

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Kim Brown
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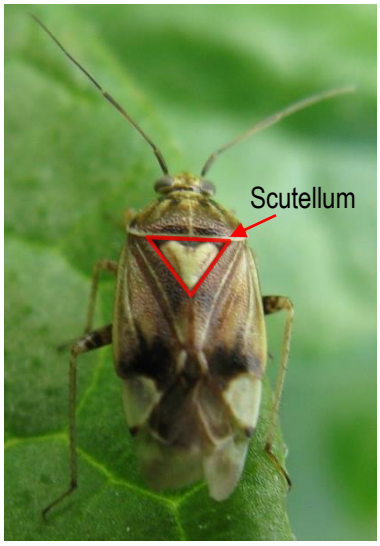
insecticides because economic thresholds have been surpassed, apply insecticides in late evening or early morning when bees are not foraging in the crop. As a general rule, evening applications are less hazardous to bees than morning applications.

The Colours of Lygus

There are 14 species of plant bugs in the genus *Lygus* in Manitoba. Three of these species can be common in crops. *Lygus* bugs can exhibit a range of colours not only between species but within a species as well. In *Lygus lineolaris*, the most abundant species of *Lygus* bug in Manitoba, the males are somewhat darker than the females. Species of *Lygus* have a pattern of seasonal colouration darkening between the overwintered or spring generation and the summer generation. The intensity and extent of colour patterns are likely also influenced by temperature, humidity, sunlight, host plant, and age of the individual. This variation in colouration and patterns can cause confusion for identifying species. To identify *Lygus* bugs in the field, look for a pale triangle, "V", or "Y" mark on a triangular region (called a scutellum) about one-third of the distance down the back, just in front of the wings.



Donate your Corn Borers to Science

We are once again looking for European corn borer egg masses or larvae for some research projects. If anyone is seeing a high level of egg masses or larvae, and doesn't mind some being collected, please contact John Gavloski at John.Gavloski@gov.mb.ca

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Weeds

Testing for Suspected Waterhemp Plants

When suspected waterhemp plants are found, it is important to get them tested for correct species identification and potential herbicide resistance. Email me at kim.brown@gov.mb.ca to help arrange this.

Forecast

Diamondback moth

A network of pheromone-baited traps were monitored across Manitoba in May and June to determine how early and in what levels populations of diamondback moth occur. Diamondback moths were found in 81 out of 93 traps that counts were reported from. There were 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 last week in May and early-June was when some higher levels of moths started to arrive in some regions.

The highest cumulative trap count was 311 from a trap near Horndean in the Central 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 10, 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	311
	Rosenfeld	209
	Carman	179
	Brunkild	111
Eastern	Ste. Anne	87
	Anola	32
	Tourond	10
	Lorrette, St. Malo	2
Interlake	Fisher Branch	126
	Faulkner	57
	Clandeboye	54

← Highest cumulative count

	Warren	42

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.

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 83 out of 86 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 233 from a trap near Pleasant Home in the Interlake region.

Table 3. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions as of July 10, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	Dropmore	63
	Makaroff	60
	Minitonas	31
	The Pas	22
	Bield, Durban	18
Southwest	Whitehead	134
	Rapid City	130
	Metigoshe	60
	Kenton	53
	Lyleton	31
Central	Carman	217
	Emerson	112
	Altona	88
	Rosenfeld	86
	Horndean	71
Eastern	Ste. Anne	13
	Tourond	2
Interlake	Pleasant Home	233
	Lundar	195
	Broad Valley	127

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

← Highest cumulative count

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	Vidir	91
	Moosehorn	71

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: 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 31 of the 32 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 88 – 212. In the Southwest region, there are three traps with cumulative counts above 40.

Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of armyworms in pheromone-baited traps for agricultural regions in Manitoba as of July 9, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Southwest	Pierson	48
	Lyleton	44
	Brandon	42
	Isabella	14
	Melita	6
Central	Arnaud	33
	Ermerson	3
Eastern	Kleefeld	212
	New Bothwell	163
	Greenland	88
Interlake	Riverton	273
	Washow Bay	195
	Famnes	182
	Zbaraz	64
	Fisher Branch	63

← 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 a few fall rye fields in the Central and Interlake regions.

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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: The caterpillar in the photo below was found in canola. What is it?

This is the larva of a butterfly called the checkered white (*Pontia protodice*). Larvae of checkered whites feed on crucifers as well as plants in the caper family (Capparidaceae). They are not considered an economical concern in canola, and are usually more an interesting curiosity than economic threat.

In Manitoba there are 2 generations per year of the checkered white, and they overwinter as pupae. The checkered white is not common in Manitoba and at one time was described as being quite rare in Manitoba.

Don't confuse the adults of this species with those of the cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*), which is quite common.

Checkered white

Cabbage white

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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