

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 3, 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, 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.
- Armyworms have been caught in 34 traps so far. Eighteen traps, three in the Central region, five in the Eastern region, and ten in the Interlake region, have caught over 25 armyworm moths.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 434 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 the Interlake region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of July 3, 2024.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest			
Russell	4	Grandview	0
Southwest			
North Pierson	23	Glenboro	3
West Pierson	23	Belmont	2
Rivers	22	Gladstone	1
Medora	9		
Central			
Horndean	93	Morris	22
Rosenfeld	79	St. Joseph	17
Altona	73		
Eastern			
Dencross	426	Kleefeld	138
New Bothwell	270	Lorette	27
Beausejour	211		
Interlake			
Riverton	434	Moosehorn	112
Washow Bay	228	East Selkirk	93
Teulon	186	Meadows	64
Fisher Branch	136	Clandeboye	59
Balmoral	113	Gunton	40

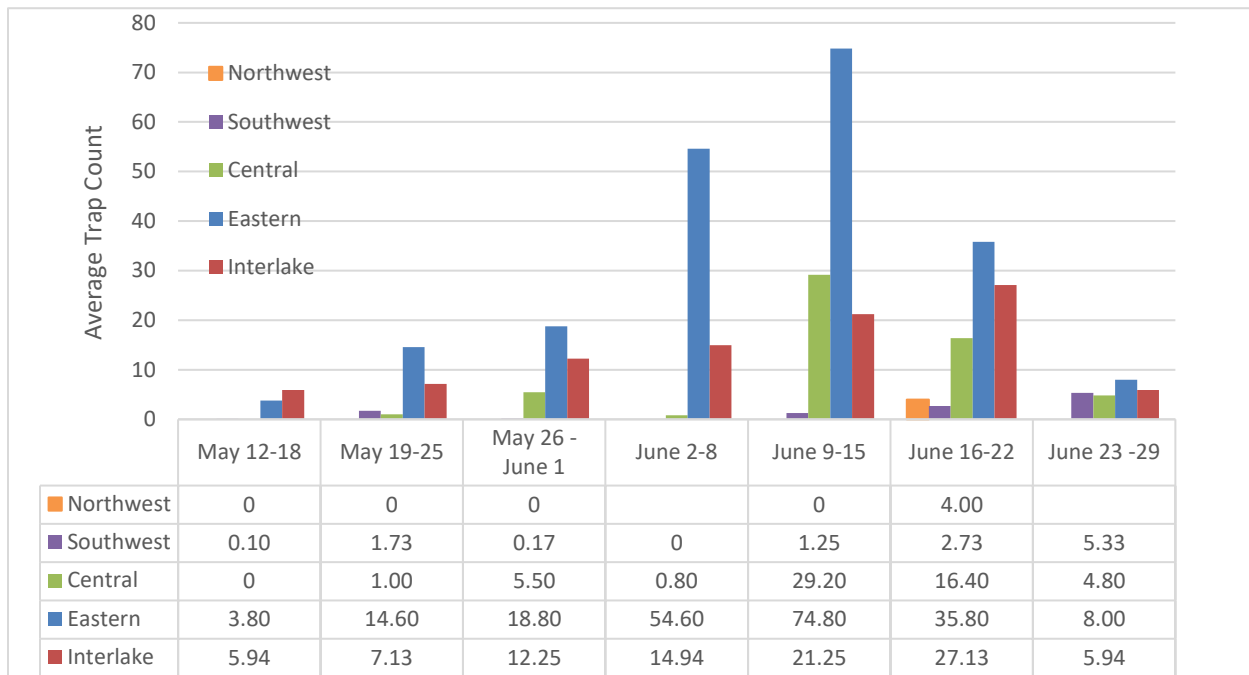


Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba

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