Risk Forecast for Bertha Armyworm in Manitoba in 2024

The population of adult moths of bertha armyworms are monitored using pheromone-baited traps during the flight and egg-laying period. The monitoring period extends from about early-June through July (June 9 to August 3 in 2024).

The cumulative moth counts from the traps, which are presented in the table below, can not predict what the level of larvae will be in the field a trap is in, but can be used, in conjunction with counts from other traps in a region, to determine areas of the province at higher risk and where increased monitoring of fields for larvae may be necessary.

Figure 1. Trap for monitoring bertha armyworm

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Figure 2. Bertha armyworm moths

July 4, 2024

Manitoba

Summary (as of July 4, 2024)

Data from pheromone-baited traps for bertha armyworm has been reported from 79 locations in Manitoba.

- Counts remained in the low risk category in all traps.
- Berth armyworms have been found in 58 out of 79 traps that counts were reported from so far.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 50 from a trap near Whitehead in the Southwest region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of July 4, 2024.

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

Location	Count	Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest					
The Pas North	25	Makaroff South	8	Deepdale	1
The Pas East	22	Birch River	3	Makaroff North	1
Grandview	10	Minitonas	3	Merriedale	1
Roblin South	9	Durban	2	Roblin North	1
Southwest					
Whitehead	50	Baldur	8	Cypress River	0
Killarney	34	Sandy Lake	8	Decker	0
Ninga	28	Elphinstone	5	Glenboro	0
Brandon East	22	Belmont	0	Hilton	0
Pierson East	12	Birtle	0	Melita	0
Rivers	9	Crandall	0	Pierson North	0

Central					
Morris	34	Emerson	16	Fannystelle	5
Horndean	21	Rosenfeld	14	Rosenort	4
St. Joseph	18	Elm Creek	12	Haywood	1
Altona	16	Starbuck	8	Wingham	0
Eastern					
Whitemouth	49	Beausejour	4	Ste. Anne	2
Stead	31	Hadashville	2	Tourond	0
Interlake					
Silver Bay	22	Vidir	15	Rosser	7
Teulon East	20	Lundar	13	Fisher Branch	6
Pleasant Home	19	Riverton	13	Ledwyn	6
Gimli	17	Morweena	10	Rockwood	6
Teulon	17	Faulkner	9	Hodgson	5
Arborg	16	Memville	7	Meadows	5

Interpreting Bertha Armyworm Cumulative Moth Counts

The following table relates the cumulative moth counts over the trapping period with the risk of larval infestation.

Cumulative number of Moths / Trap		
From	To	Larval Infestation Risk Level
0	300	Low - Infestations are unlikely to be widespread, but fields should be inspected for signs of insects or damage.
301	900	Uncertain - Infestations may not be widespread, but fields that were particularly attractive to egg-laying females could be infested. Check your fields.
901	1200	Moderate - Canola fields should be sampled regularly for larvae and for evidence of damage.
1200+		High - Canola fields should be sampled frequently for larvae and for evidence of damage.

For information on techniques to monitor levels of larvae of bertha armyworm, and economic thresholds, see:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/bertha-armyworm-factsheet.pdf