

Issue 6 – June 26, 2025

Manitoba Crop Pest Update



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Summary

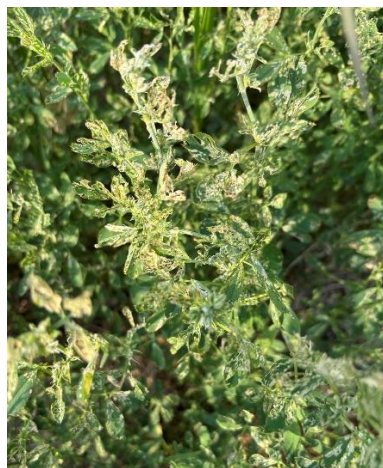
Insects: **True armyworm** larvae are being detected at some higher levels in some fields of small grain cereals in the Central region, where they have been controlled in some fields of fall rye. **Alfalfa weevil** feeding has been quite noticeable in some fields in the Central and Interlake regions. In some instances, fields are being cut early as a management option for alfalfa weevil. **Thrips** are evident in some cereal fields in the Northwest and Southwest regions. **Cereal leaf beetle** larvae are being noticed in some cereal fields, but no control has been reported.

Weeds: Weed control operations are wrapping up across the province.

Entomology

Alfalfa Weevil

Feeding from alfalfa weevil initially looks like pinholes. Later there may be extensive feeding between the veins of the leaves, resulting in ragged skeletonized leaves. With extensive feeding the crop may have a whitish sheen, or frosted appearance when viewed from the field edge. The following photos, taken this week, show feeding from alfalfa weevil.



Photos by Bruce Bergman

For information on identification, biology, monitoring and management of alfalfa weevil, see the Manitoba Agriculture factsheet on Alfalfa Weevil in Manitoba at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/alfalfa-weevil.html>

Report compiled by John Gavloski, Kim Brown
Entomologist, Weeds Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture
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Cabbage Seedpod Weevil

Some have been noticing cabbage seedpod weevil adults on their canola over the past couple of weeks. Cabbage seedpod weevil was first detected in Manitoba in 2017, and surveyed annually since then, but to date counts in our survey have been quite low. The highest count to date in our survey has been 6 in 25 sweeps. Considering the economic threshold is 25 to 40 in 10 sweeps, this has not been of big concern. The fact that people have been noticing the weevils while out crop scouting this year, without specifically sweeping for them, adds extra incentive to sweep canola fields when they start to flower and assess weevil levels.

We will once again be doing our cabbage seedpod weevil survey in 2025. This involves doing 25 sweeps in 3 locations in a flowering canola field. Samples are transferred to bags, and brought or sent to Manitoba Agriculture in Carman, where samples are processed to determine levels of cabbage seedpod weevil, and look for the presence of a potentially invasive insect called the pollen beetle. Anyone growing or scouting canola can collect and send in samples to contribute to the survey. The survey is not too time consuming and will help us determine levels and range of cabbage seedpod weevil in Manitoba. The protocol for doing the survey is posted on the Manitoba Agriculture website at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/protocol-cabbage-seedpod-weevil-survey.pdf>

Below are some photos of cabbage seedpod weevil, that were attracted to a canola ring that was being used to do plant stand counts. The specks on the hoop are cabbage seedpod weevils, with a close-up photo of one.



Photos by Sheila Elder

Armyworms

These photos are of true armyworms that were in a fall rye field. Some are already getting quite large. Larvae typically go through six stages (called instars), except the occasional larva that will go through seven, particularly in cooler temperatures. Mature larvae are 3 to 3.5 cm long.



Photos by Brittany Windsor

For information on identification tips for armyworms, biology, monitoring and economic thresholds in cereal crops and forage grasses, see the Manitoba Agriculture factsheet on armyworms at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf>

Weeds

Weed Control Program Assessment

Now is the time to scout and assess how well your weed control program has worked. If there are weeds that were not controlled, can you figure out what happened. Is it herbicide resistance? Or they may have been too large and out of stage at the time of spraying or emerged after. Were they on the label for control or suppression? Have perennials and winter annuals regrown – sometimes you get season long or top growth control and sometimes by mid-season they start to grow back. Was there something mechanical – plugged nozzles or boom height was off? Continue to monitor weed escapes as with resistant weeds we don't want them to go to seed and need to come up with a plan to prevent that.

Changes to the Noxious Weeds Act

Recent changes to the Noxious Weeds Act have moved waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*) to a Tier 2 in 28 Rural Municipalities (RM's) across the province. As a Tier 2 weed waterhemp must be destroyed if infestation is under 20 acres and controlled if infestation is over 20 acres. This change was necessary due to the number of fields that waterhemp has been found in and it is not possible to completely destroy and eradicate this weed. The Noxious Weeds Act can be found here: [C.C.S.M. c. N110](#) and its corresponding regulation: [Noxious Weeds Regulation, M.R. 42/2017](#). The RM's where waterhemp has been found and now moved to Tier 2 can be found here: [waterhemp-2024.jpg \(800×1035\)](#)

Here are some pics of waterhemp, note the leaves are longer and skinnier than redroot pigweed, and may be a darker, shinier green. Waterhemp is hairless and stems feel smooth. When looking down from the top the plant may appear poinsettia-like. Note cotyledons on small plants are wider closest to the stem and a bit more pointy-tipped (egg-shaped) while other pigweed cotyledons are cigar-shaped.



Forecasts

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 June 26, 2025.

Lower Risk: 0-25 Elevated Risk: 26-200 Higher level of moth catch: 200+			
Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count	
Northwest	North Bowsman	254	← Highest cumulative count
	Togo	125	
	West Bowsman	120	
	Bowsman	116	
Southwest	Melita	29	
	Hartney, Whitehead	15	
	Pierson	14	
	Roseland	9	
Central	Horndean	246	
	Rosenfeld	164	
	Carman	114	
	Brunkild	103	
Eastern	Ste. Anne	37	
	Anola	32	
	Tourond	5	
	Lorrette, St. Malo	2	
Interlake	Fisher Branch	86	
	Pleasant Home	34	
	Clandeboyne	26	
	Warren	21	

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.

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.



the 30 traps with counts reported from so far, armyworms have been found in 29 traps. Some higher cumulative counts have occurred in the Interlake region. Of

Table 2. Highest cumulative counts of armyworms in pheromone-baited traps for agricultural regions in Manitoba as of June 25, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Southwest	Lyleton	37
	Brandon	28
	Pierson	27
	Isabella	14
	Melita	6
Central	Arnaud	9
	Ermerson	1
Eastern	New Bothwell	71
	Kleefeld	66
	Greenland	41
Interlake	Riverton	262
	Famnes	162
	Washow Bay	113
	Fisher Branch	61
	Zbaraz	57

← 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.

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 63 out of 80 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 91 from a trap near Broad Valley in the Interlake region.



Table 3. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) in pheromone-baited traps for five agricultural regions as of June 26, 2025.

Region	Nearest Town	Trap Count
Northwest	Swan River	17
	Makaroff	12
	The Pas	8
	Birchview	7
	Angusville, Carrot Valley, Durban, Silverwood	6
Southwest	Metigoshe	47
	Whitehead	30
	Ninga	17
	Coulter	12
	Rapid City	10
Central	Emerson	57
	Carman	29
	Baldur	27
	Cypress River, Haywood	17
	Arnaud	11
Interlake	Broad Valley	91
	Pleasant Home	46
	Vidir	30
	Ledwyn	17
	Warren	13

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

Identification Quiz

Question: What are these small, slimy things that can sometimes be seen on the leaves of cereals and other grasses?



Photo by Sheila Elder



Answer: This is a cereal leaf beetle larva. As a defense against predators, the larvae coat themselves in mucus and their own feces. This coating may make the larvae look like oil droplets on plants. Cereal leaf beetles are an invasive insect from Europe first found in Manitoba in 2009. Up until 2016, a parasitic wasp, *Tetrastichus julis*, had been released to help control cereal leaf beetle populations. While the fecal shield may help protect against predators, it has the opposite effect on *T. julis*. The parasitoid wasp is attracted to the smell and uses it to locate the larva. *T. julis* has been established and is effective at managing cereal leaf beetle with parasitism rates of up to 70% being recorded in Manitoba.

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