<u>Issue</u> 1 – May 22, 2025 Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Insects



Seasonal Reports

Weekly Weather Maps

Summary

Insects: Both crucifer and striped flea beetles have emerged and are actively feeding on cruciferous plants. with a lot of the earliest feeding being on wild crucifers and volunteer canola. Watch canola crops carefully when they emerge. Dingy cutworms have been found in some fields, but so far no economical populations have been reported. Dingy cutworms overwinter as a partially grown larvae, which is why they may be easier to find early in the season. Wireworms have also been noted in some fields. There are a couple of reports from the Central region of wireworms being quite active.

Weeds: Windy conditions and wet weather have slowed down burn-off applications. Some weeds like lamb's guarters, round leaved mallow and wild buckwheat are growing rapidly and should be burned off before planting more crops. The recent moisture and upcoming warmer temperatures will cause a flush in weed growth.

Entomology

Grasshoppers

Hatch of our pest species of grasshoppers has started earlier than normal this year, due to some above average temperatures earlier in the spring, as well as some above average temperatures in late-summer and fall last year.

This grasshopper photo to the right was taken on May 13, 2025. It appears to be a very new (maybe under an hour) twostriped grasshopper, Melanoplus *bivittatus*. A colleague in Alberta, Dr. Dan Johnson, reported finding twostripped grasshoppers May 7. The cooler weather we are now getting will slow down grasshopper emergence, but the start of emergence of our pest species was early this year. The very heavy rains late last week may not have been favourable to some of these early emerging grasshoppers, but it is likely that most of the eggs of our pest species are still unhatched, and the egg stage is very resilient to excess water.



Photo by Kristine Kilpatrick -Field2Field Agronomy



Flea Beetles

Both striped and crucifer flea beetles are emerged and active. This photo was taken on May 11. Note the predominance of crucifer flea beetles in the photo.

Activity of Seed Treatments for Flea Beetles:

The neonicotinoid seed treatments in canola are highly water soluble. Under very dry conditions, where there is no moisture present, the seed treatment will not be active until there is moisture. If there is enough moisture to germinate the crop, there is enough for the seed treatment to work. The seed treatments work by moving into the soil moisture and being taken up by the root systems. When there is excessive rainfall, it can lead



to quicker utilization of the treatment, so shortening its longevity, and can lead to some being leached. Seed treatments usually last about 3-4 weeks, depending on the seed treatment, but that can extend or be shortened by rainfall and weather.

Bob Elliott, with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon, had done research looking at the effects of moisture and temperature on the performance of neonicotinoids. One of the conclusions was "All products (thiamethoxam, clothianidin, imidacloprid) performed best in drier conditions and higher temperatures".

Weeds

Now that the Weeds Seedling Identification Days have been completed, test your identification skill on the young stages of these 3 weeds.









Answers to weed identification guiz:

- A) This is lamb's quarters Chenopodium album
- B) This is wild buckwheat Fallopia convolvulus
- C) This is round-leaved mallow Malva pusilla

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 32 out of 65 traps that counts were reported from. Trap counts have generally been low so far.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 16 from a trap near Fisher Branch in the Interlake region.

 Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in pheromone-baited traps for five
 agricultural regions in Manitoba as of May 22, 2025.

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Highest 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/diamondbackmoth-trap%20results.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.

Counts have generally been low so far. Of the 24 traps with counts reported from so far, armyworm moths have been found in 11 of the traps. Cumulative counts are below 10 in all traps with the exception of two traps:



Riverton = 56, Fisher Branch= 52. We will need to keep on eye on levels in the Interlake, and keep an eye for feeding or armyworm larvae once there has been time for them to develop.

Identification Quiz

Which of these soil-dwelling arthropods is a wireworm? What are the others?





Answers:

Photo A: This is a Therevid larva, also known as a stiletto fly larva. There are 11 species of therevids in Manitoba. These larvae are predaceous and one of their known prey items is wireworms.

How to distinguish from wireworms: Therevid larvae have no legs and will thrash around if disturbed.

Photo B: This is a crane fly larva. Although in other parts of Canada there are species considered plant pests, crane fly larvae you find in the field in Manitoba are likely feeding on decaying plant material. Larvae can be beneficial for the soil by processing organic matter and increasing microbial activity.

How to distinguish from wireworms: Crane fly larvae also do not have any legs but have finger-like projections at the end of their body. Later instar larvae have tough leathery skin.

Photo C: This is a wireworm.

Features to look for: Wireworms have hard, slender bodies with three pairs of legs behind their head and the last abdominal segment is flattened with a keyhole-shaped notch.

Photo D: This is a centipede. Centipedes are not considered insects; they belong to a class of arthropods called Chilopoda. There are 53 species of centipedes in Canada but only one is known to occur in Manitoba, *Strigamia chionophila*. Centipedes are generalist predators that consume most anything that is soft bodied and small enough, including insects.

How to distinguish from wireworms: Centipedes have at least 15 pairs of legs arranged as one pair per body segment.

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

