

Manitoba Crop Pest Update

Issue 15: August 26, 2020

Summary

Insects: High levels of flea beetles are present in canola in many areas. Grasshoppers continue to be at high levels in some areas, however little control has been reported recently as crops mature. Some populations of Lygus bugs near threshold in the Northwest region have recently been reported, but no insecticide applications to date.

Entomology

Flea beetles in canola: High levels of flea beetles continue to be noticed on podded canola in many areas. Some insecticide applications for late-season flea beetle control were reported from the Eastern and Interlake regions. Quite high levels have also been reported in area of the Northwest and Central regions. As mentioned in last week's update, canola can tolerate fairly high levels of flea beetles late in the season. With the very high flea beetle levels being reported in some canola fields this year, do keep an eye on how much pod damage is occurring and how far advanced the seed are. Note that once a canola crop is within 7 days of swathing or straight-cutting that insecticides are not an option.

Pea leaf weevil: Last September, an agronomist from the Swan River area sent in four weevils found in pea stubble. They were identified as pea leaf weevil (*Sitona lineatus*). These were the first pea leaf weevils found in Manitoba. This spring a more intensive survey was done in western Manitoba placing pheromone-baited pitfall traps in pea and faba bean fields to determine the distribution and levels of pea leaf weevil. The good news is that levels were generally not high (so far only 3 out of 24 samples we have processed have been over 10 pea leaf weevils). But pea leaf weevils were found in traps at several sites in the Northwest. Traps in the general region of Durban, Swan River, Kenville, and Minitonas had pea leaf weevils in them. The highest trap count is 30 from a pea field near Minitonas. If while doing fall field work anyone finds weevils that they suspect to be pea leaf weevils, please send them in for verification. Although a weevil, pea leaf weevil does not have long snout. Note the white markings on its thorax. What is tricky, is that there are other weevils, such as sweet clover weevil, alfalfa curculio, and clover root curculio that can look very similar.



Preventing stored grain insects: A reminder before moving and storing new grain to clean old grain out of bins, augers, combines, truck beds, and other areas where grain or grain debris may be. Infestations of stored grain insects such as rusty grain beetles usually do not get started by harvesting the insects along with the grain. They are often the result of insects already being present in bins or equipment used to move grain, or insects being able to get into the stored grain through openings in bins or storage structures. The photo below shows a picture of a sawtoothed grain beetle (top right), red flour beetle (bottom left), and rusty grain beetle (bottom right) with a grain of wheat (top left) to give perspective on size. These are some of the beetles that can occur in stored grain.



Some insects in stored grain, such as the rusty grain beetle, will feed primarily on the grain, while others, such as foreign grain beetle, may be feeding primarily on molds growing on grain that is too moist. So it is good to know the species you are dealing with as management options may differ. Additional information on identifying and managing insects on stored grain can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/prevention-and-management-of-insects-and-mites-in-farm-stored-grain.html>

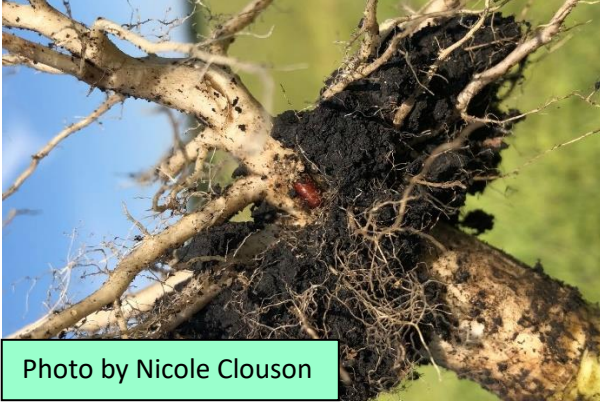
For long-term storage of grain, lowering the grain temperature below 15°C as soon as possible after the grain is placed in storage can help minimize the risk of stored grain insects. Below 15°C potential insect pests of stored grain stop laying eggs and development stops. Grain that is not aerated or moved after harvest can often remain warm enough for insects to survive the winter.

Forecasts

Grasshopper Survey: A reminder for those involved in the grasshopper survey that ideally counts should be done between August 1st and September 1st.

Identification Quiz:

Question: While doing the canola disease survey, some were finding these pupae embedded into the canola roots. What are they?



Answer: These are pupae of root maggots.

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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 the above contacts.

To be placed on an **E-mail list** so you will be notified immediately when new Manitoba Crop Pest Updates are posted, please contact John Gavloski at the address or numbers listed above.