

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 2023).

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



Figure 2. Bertha armyworm moths

Summary (as of June 27, 2024)

Data from pheromone-baited traps for bertha armyworm has been reported from 74 locations in Manitoba.

- Counts remained in the low risk category in all traps.
- Berth armyworms have been found in 37 out of 74 traps that counts were reported from so far.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 49 from a trap near Whitemouth in the Eastern region.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of June 27, 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					
Grandview	10	Angusville South	0	Grandview	0
Roblin South	9	Angusville West	0	Merriedale	0
Makaroff South	8	Bield	0	Russell	0
Makaroff North	1	Deepdale	0	Shell Valley	0
Roblin North	1	Dropmore	0		
Southwest					
Pierson East	12	Belmont	0	Elphinstone	0
Baldur	8	Belmont South	0	Glenboro	0
Brandon East	8	Birtle	0	Hilton	0
Whitehead	5	Crandall	0	Melita	0
Ninga	3	Cypress River	0	Pierson North	0
Rivers	3	Decker	0	Sandy Lake	0

Central					
Morris	22	Fannystelle	4	Horndean	0
St. Joseph	8	Starbuck	3	Rosenfeld	0
Emerson	6	Altona	0	Rosenort	0
Elm Creek	4	Haywood	0	Wingham	0
Eastern					
Whitemouth	49	Beausejour	4	Ste. Anne	0
Stead	31	Hadashville	2	Tourond	0
Interlake					
Silver Bay	21	Riverton	10	Fisher Branch	6
Pleasant Home	14	Vidir	10	Ledwyn	6
Teulon East	13	Gimli	8	Faulkner	5
Arborg	12	Lundar	8	Memville	5
Teulon	11	Morweena	7	Hodgson	4

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		Larval Infestation Risk Level
From	To	

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>