

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



Figure 2. Bertha armyworm moths

Summary (as of July 10, 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 66 out of 79 traps that counts were reported from so far.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 125 from a trap near Whitehead in the Southwest region.

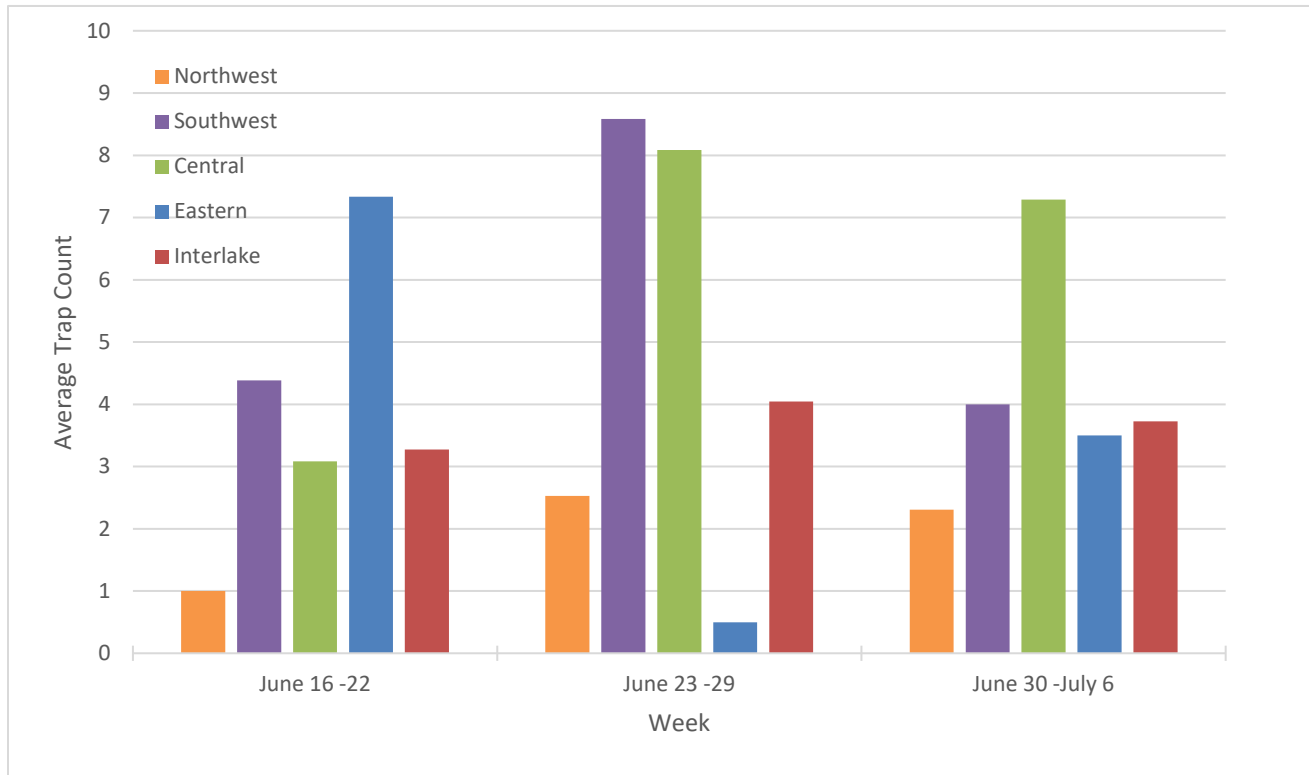


Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for Bertha armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of July 10, 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	Roblin North	6	Durban	2
The Pas East	22	Birch River	3	Deepdale	1

Grandview	10	Dropmore	3	Makaroff North	1
Roblin South	9	Mintonas	3	Merriedale	1
Makaroff South	8	Angusville South	2		

Southwest

Whitehead	125	Baldur	8	Belmont	0
Brandon East	36	Sandy Lake	8	Cypress River	0
Killarney	34	Crandall	6	Glenboro	0
Ninga	28	Birtle	5	Hilton	0
Rivers	25	Decker	5	Melita	0
Pierson East	12	Elphinstone	5	Pierson North	0

Central

Morris	48	Altona	16	Fannystelle	5
Emerson	32	Rosenfeld	14	Rosenort	4
St. Joseph	24	Elm Creek	12	Haywood	1
Horndean	21	Starbuck	8	Wingham	0

Eastern

Whitemouth	49	Ste. Anne	7	Hadashville	2
Stead	31	Beausejour	4	Tourond	2

Interlake

Teulon East	54	Lundar	28	Riverton	14
Silver Bay	37	Meadows	24	Faulkner	13
Pleasant Home	32	Teulon	21	Memville	8
Arborg	31	Vidir	21	Clandeboye	6
Gimli	31	Rosser	17	Fisher Branch	6
Rockwood	29	Morweena	14	Ledwyn	6

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>