True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2024

Larvae of armyworms, *Mythimna unipuncta*, sometimes called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. They do not overwinter in the Canadian prairie provinces, but large numbers can potentially migrate in. If conditions are favorable for their survival and reproduction when they arrive, and if natural enemies do not limit population establishment, populations can increase.

Pheromone-baited traps (Figure 1), which attract the male moths, are established for a 12-week period from early-May until late-July to detect the arrival of populations of armyworms early in the season. The cumulative counts from the traps cannot predict what levels of larvae will be, but can be used to determine regions of the province where increased attention for armyworms is recommended when scouting fields of cereals and forage grasses.

Figure 1. Trap for armyworms

Figure 2. Armyworm moth

Summary (as of June 26, 2024)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths have been set up at 43 locations in Manitoba in 2024.

- Counts have been low so far in the western regions of Manitoba, with some moderate counts in the Central region. Some higher counts have occurred in some of the traps in the Eastern and Interlake regions. Counts gradually got higher over a few week period in the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions, generally peaking during the week of June 9-15 (see Figure 3).
- Armyworms have been caught in 33 traps so far. Eighteen traps, three in the Central region, five in the Eastern region, and ten in the Interlake region, have caught over 25 armyworm moths.

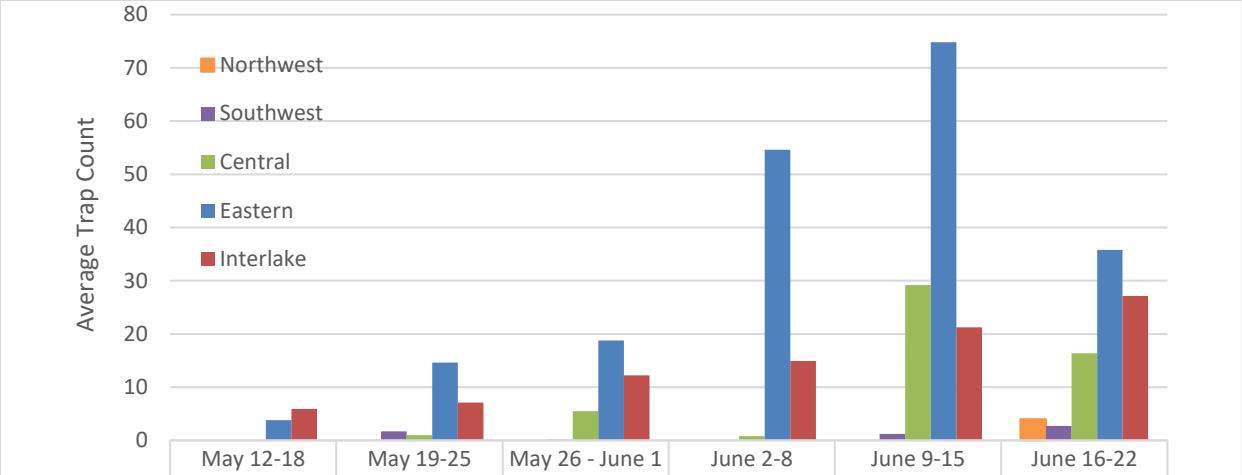
The highest cumulative trap count so far is 434 from a trap near Riverton in the Interlake region. There are some areas in the Central, Eastern and Interlake regions where looking for larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals

Manitoba

and forage grasses would be good to prioritize. Armyworm larvae have been reported from the Central and Interlake regions, but so far not at economic levels.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of June 26, 2024.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest			
Russell	4	Grandview	0
Southwest			
North Pierson	23	Glenboro	3
West Pierson	23	Belmont	2
Rivers	20	Gladstone	1
Medora	9		
Central			
Horndean	89	Morris	22
Altona	66	St. Joseph	17
Rosenfeld	66		
Eastern			
Dencross	426	Kleefeld	117
New Bothwell	250	Lorette	25
Beausejour	211		
Interlake			
Riverton	434	Balmoral	106
Washow Bay	227	East Selkirk	93
Teulon	171	Meadows	56
Fisher Branch	136	Clandeboye	52
Moosehorn	112	Gunton	40



	May 12-18	May 19-25	May 26 - June 1	June 2-8	June 9-15	June 16-22
Northwest	0	0	0		0	4.00
Southwest	0.10	1.73	0.17	0	1.25	2.73
Central	0	1.00	5.50	0.80	29.20	16.4
Eastern	3.80	14.60	18.80	54.60	74.80	35.80
Interlake	5.94	7.13	12.25	14.94	21.25	27.125

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

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf

Figure 4. Armyworm larvae