

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2025



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 August 2, 2025)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths were set up at 32 locations in Manitoba in 2025.

Armyworms were caught in all 32 traps. The highest cumulative counts were in the Interlake and Eastern regions. In the Interlake region, there were three traps with cumulative counts above 300, and a trap near Riverton exceeding 500. All three traps in the Eastern region had cumulative counts above 200. In the Southwest region, counts were lower; there were three traps with cumulative counts above 50.

The highest cumulative trap count was 552 from a trap near Riverton in the Interlake region.

Looking for larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses is recommended. Some fields of small grain cereals and forage grasses in the Interlake, Eastern and Central regions have been sprayed for armyworms.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of August 2, 2025.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Southwest			
Lyleton	74	Birtle	14
Brandon	61	Glenboro	12
Pierson	55	Melita	6
Isabella	29	Belmont	1
Central			
Arnaud	37	Emerson	3
Eastern			
Kleefeld	340	Greenland	203
New Bothwell	256		
Interlake			
Riverton	552	Minnewakan	23
Washow Bay	388	Shorncliffe	23
Framnes	326	Cloverdale	19
Zbaraz	180	Faulkner	18
Fisher Branch	67	East Selkirk	13
Okno	62	Grosse Isle	12
Ledwyn	55	Balmoral	11
Teulon	40	Warren	5
Pleasant Home	26	Gimli	1
Miklavik	24		

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf>