

Managing Insect Pests

Speakers:

Tyler Wist	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>
Tharshi Nagalingam	<i>University of Manitoba</i>
Bryan Cassone	<i>Brandon University</i>
Vincent Hervet	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>
Melanie Dubois	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>
John Gavloski	<i>Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development</i>
Crystal Almdal	<i>University of Manitoba</i>

Objectives:

Top Insect Concerns from 2019, Forecasts for 2020, and Management Tips.

Collaborator: Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

Demonstration Summary:

John is an entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development in Carman. He conducts monitoring programs for some of Manitoba's major insect pests and provides information on insects and insect management to farmers, agronomists and those working in the agriculture industry. John does numerous presentations and information updates for agronomists and farmers, and co-produces a weekly Manitoba Crop Pest Update during the spring and summer. He Presented at Crops-A-Palooza event to highlight top Insect concerns from 2019, forecasts for 2020, and provide management tips to the growers' community.

Flea Beetles:

Flea beetles can be quite noticeable on canola late in the summer, as can their feeding on the pods at times. Research at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon looked at how economical this late-summer feeding can be. The study concluded that: Flea beetle feeding on canola in late-summer is rarely an economic concern. Flea beetle feeding that occurs when seeds in lower pods of canola are at the green stage or beyond is unlikely to affect seed yields regardless of the infestation rate of flea beetles. Even when seeds are translucent to green, numbers higher than 100 flea beetles per plant, and for some cultivars higher than 350 per plant, may be necessary to cause significant yield reductions.

Once the canola becomes less palatable for the flea beetles or is being cut, these species of flea beetles will be on the move looking for other cruciferous host plants to feed on, including cruciferous garden vegetables and flowers, and can be hard to manage.

Soybean Aphid:

Still no soybean aphids found in Manitoba this year. We try to track when the first soybean aphids are found each year, so please let me (John Gavloski) know if you see any. At this point the risk of there being any economic problems should they be detected soon is low.

Grasshoppers:

Grasshoppers have been a concern in many crops, and as crops like cereals mature and become less attractive they are moving into other crops like canola, which may have been less attractive to them earlier in the season. With canola there is often an edge effect. So if you see grasshoppers at what seem to be high levels while entering a canola field, assess whether populations decline as you move into the field.

Pre-harvest intervals restrict insecticide options for grasshoppers late in the season. If insecticides are being considered for late season grasshopper control, note that pre-harvest interval is the time until the crop is swathed or cut.

Weeds:

Tall waterhemp sightings in the province are likely to increase over the next month as soybeans drop their leaves and the waterhemp plants begin to tower over the mature crop. When in doubt, please ask for help in verifying if plants are waterhemp, as these plants must be destroyed and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned before it leaves an area with a noxious weed to prevent spread. Scout fields before harvest to prevent seed spread in the field and beyond. The pictures below are green pigweed, not waterhemp and these are great examples of submitted photos that help with Noxious Weed surveillance in the province.