

## CROP REPORT

# Delayed haying is giving alfalfa weevils a feast

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives crop report for July 8, 2013

## Southwest Region

Rainfall amounts across the region varied from 10 to 80 mm with higher amounts reported in the Wasagaming, Erickson and Neepawa areas. Localized crop losses are occurring due to standing water.

Disease pressure across all crops increased significantly as a result of the weather conditions. Fungicide control measures are ongoing.

Soybeans continue to outperform most crops in dealing with the excess moisture conditions.

Insect activity in cereals and oilseeds decreased over this past week with both flea beetle feeding in canola and cutworm injury in cereals, canola and flax decreasing. Alfalfa weevil feeding in alfalfa continued last week.

Bertha army worm moth monitoring continue to see relatively low numbers. Wheat midge activity is reported to be at relatively low levels.

Pasture and hay growth continued to improve. Most hay crops are in reproductive stages of development. Only 10 to 20 per cent of the first cut is reported as completed. There is only minimal chance of slough or marsh hay being harvested.

## Northwest Region

Scattered thunderstorms across a section through Gilbert Plains

to Winnipegosis resulted in heavy precipitation where 100 to 150 mm of rainfall was reported, along with some crop lodging and hail. Some road infrastructure damage is still limiting field, pasture and livestock accessibility.

At this point, excess moisture is estimated to have impacted 10 per cent of crop acres through the Northwest Region. To the east of the escarpment and at The Pas, more acres are affected, with some individual fields seeing 50 to 70 per cent of the field impacted.

Fungicide applications on cereals, canola and soybeans continued with many producers relying on aerial application.

Canola insect trap counts indicate bertha army worm moths are increasing slightly but numbers remain very low. Some localized high grasshopper populations on red clover have required insecticide applications.

Hay harvest progress remains very limited to date with only some acres cut before the rain. Low-lying areas and those acres near a lake are currently under surplus moisture conditions. Dugouts are full.

## Central Region

Much of the region saw little to no rain and many areas are looking for moisture. Trace amounts fell over most of the

region with localized areas reporting amounts ranging from 10 to 30 mm. Standing water in areas with higher rainfall continues to be a concern.

Some acres remain unseeded due to excess moisture and may see forage seed and greenfeed planted.

Windy conditions continue to interfere with pesticide applications at times, but good progress was still made.

Many fields are uneven in both crop development and plant stands. The most advanced spring wheat fields have received fungicide applications for fusarium head blight. Leaf diseases are evident, especially in fields with cereal stubble from the previous year.

Blackleg lesions are reported in a number of fields, but most reports are coming from the southwest part of the region. Fungicide applications were made to lessen the impact of the disease.

Fall rye and winter wheat are headed and most fungicide applications are complete.

Diamondback moth monitoring continues. Some larvae were found. Trap counts are highest in eastern parts of the region. Higher bertha army worm trap counts are being seen but numbers are still in the low-risk range. Grasshop-

per activity increased. The headlands of a number of cereal and canola fields were sprayed, mostly in eastern and northwestern areas.

Baling of first-cut hay continues with average yields expected for most areas. Alfalfa weevil pressure has advanced cutting and baling before optimum timing in some fields. Dugouts are full.

## Eastern Region

Rainfall amounts ranging from trace to 25 mm fell this past week in the Eastern Region.

Crops in general are doing well across the Eastern Region.

Monitoring for insects continues across the region, in particular grasshoppers in the northern areas of the region. Some fields saw threshold levels reached with spraying resulting. Migration of lygus bugs into canola is occurring. Some army worms in forage seed crops and diamondback larvae in canola being found but no threshold levels of concern reported yet.

Haying continues in the Eastern Region with progress at 25 per cent standing, 10 to 25 per cent cut and 50 to 65 per cent baled or silaged. Roughly 75 per cent of alfalfa, alfalfa/grass and tame hay fields intended for beef cattle feed were harvested as first-

cut hay/silage. Native grasses remain standing.

Pasture conditions in the region are rated as 50 to 85 per cent good to 10 to 25 per cent fair and zero to 25 per cent poor in the region. Livestock water, including dugouts, is rated at 100 per cent adequate.

## Interlake Region

Rainfall amounts ranged from two to five mm in the Arborg and Riverton area and up to 20 mm in the Woodlands area. The Broad Valley/Chatfield area had 50 mm of precipitation along with hail. Water is still ponding on fields that were hit hard last week.

With the recent rainfalls some producers have to apply a second herbicide application due to a second flush of weeds. Fungicide spraying in winter wheat crops is completed across the Interlake Region. Spraying for fusarium head blight in spring wheat will be starting this week. Canola fields throughout the region are getting sprayed due to sclerotinia pressure. Alfalfa seed fields will soon be getting sprayed for leaf and flower diseases.

Hay yields are less than average but quality is good. There is weevil and plant bug damage on the alfalfa in hay stands. Pastures and dugout conditions are good.

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## NEWS

### CFIA registers new soybean inoculant

By Allan Dawson  
CO-OPERATOR STAFF

Canadian soybean growers have a new soybean inoculant option, which according to its developer, boosts yields by not only adding nitrogen-fixing Bradyrhizobium to the soil but also invigorating natural soil microflora, including native rhizobia.

The inoculant called SoyRhizo was developed by XiteBio Technologies, a Winnipeg-based firm with a focus on developing biological products to boost crop yields.

SoyRhizo was registered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency May 31 and will be available commercially to Canadian farmers next spring, said Manas Banerjee, XiteBio Technologies' president and CEO. The inoculant has been used commercially in the U.S. since 2011.

"Traditional inoculant works by outcompeting what you have in the soil," Banerjee said.

"We try to enhance the natural microflora."

The result is a more vigorous and stronger root system, which increases soybean nodulation, improves plant health, and boosts yields, he said.

Soybeans treated with SoyRhizo in 2011 at 18 locations in Manitoba and the U.S. yielded an average 11.3 per cent higher than the untreated checks. (See results at <http://xitebio.ca/soybean-inoculant/SoyRhizo-2011-2012-field-trial-results.pdf>.)

The research was conducted by North Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska, Ohio State University and in Manitoba by an independent third party, according to XiteBio Technologies' website.

Yield increases over the untreated checks at the Manitoba sites varied from nothing (-0.6) at Wingham to 26.1 bushels an acre at Fairfax.

"I'm really confident on that (11.3 per cent increase) number because it's from a whole range of soils," Banerjee said.

SoyRhizo-treated soybeans yielded at or near the top when compared to other inoculants in separate trials conducted in 2012 by North Dakota and Ohio State universities.

SoyRhizo is an "all-in-one" liquid inoculant that only needs to be applied to soybean seed ahead of planting. Ideally once treated, soybeans should be planted immediately, but the inoculant remains viable on unplanted seed for 32 days.

Packaged SoyRhizo has a two-year shelf life, Banerjee said.

[allan@fbcpublishing.com](mailto:allan@fbcpublishing.com)