Risk Forecast for Bertha Armyworm in Manitoba in 2023

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 4 to July 29 in 2023).

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 29, 2023)

Data from pheromone-baited traps for bertha armyworm has been reported from 90 locations in Manitoba.

- Counts remained in the low risk category in all traps except for a trap near Waskada.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 411 from a trap near Waskada in Southwest Manitoba.

July 29, 2023

Manitoba

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of July 29, 2023.

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 (East)	277	Makaroff	75	Russell	49
Minitonas	146	Minitonas	66	Dropmore	45
The Pas (West)	146	Minitonas	63	Grandview	42
Durban	122	Swan River	57	Shell Valley	38
Inglis	104	Benito	51	North Roblin	35
Southwest					
Waskada	411	Minto	118	Minnedosa	91
Cypress River	234	Rapid City	118	Shoal Lake	91
Miniota	205	Pierson	110	Brandon	88
Rossburn	134	Russell	110	Stockton	80
Whitehead	128	Hartney Jct.	95	Crandall	71
Central					
Lowe Farm	181	Barnsley	20	Elm Creek	7
Emerson	159	Horndean	19	Fannystelle	5
Graysville	38	Barnsley	14	Layland	4
Gretna	28	Carman	10	Culross	1

Altona	21	Brunkild	8	Rosenfeld	1
Eastern					
Whitemouth	188	Beausejour	69	Tourond	15
Stead	94	Ste. Anne	53	Hadashville	1
Interlake					
Meadows	279	Teulon	170	East Selkirk	101
Hodgson	221	Ashern	154	Riverton	80
Poplarfield	219	Stonewall	150	Lundar	77
Selkirk	188	Steeprock	128	Vidir	49
Arborg	177	Winnipeg Beach	113	Arborg	3

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		
From	To	Larval Infestation Risk Level
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-revised-may2023.pdf