

Alberta Agriculture Insect Monitoring Program

This program is coordinated by Scott Meers, Insect Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and his technician, Shelley Barkley.

There are seven main surveys. Pea leaf weevil, cabbage seedpod weevil, diamondback moth, bertha armyworm, grasshoppers, wheat midge, and wheat stem sawfly. In addition we will be doing several smaller surveillance surveys including a survey of the new canola flower midge. This survey will concentrate in central Alberta and into the Peace River region.

The pea leaf weevil survey, conducted in late May and June and will be carried out throughout Alberta in 2018. This survey is done by counting the number of feeding notches on 10 plants in 5 locations in the field. We work along the headland and do not enter the field at all. **If you have a pea field that we could survey please contact us at the email provided below.**

Bertha armyworm (June/July) and diamondback moth (May/June) surveys are pheromone based and are conducted by cooperators. Traps are placed on canola field margins and checked weekly. Results are tabulated by cooperators, Trap counts are entered by cooperators using a web based reporting system and automatically reported via our web page. We are always looking to fill holes in our monitoring system. If producers or agronomists wish to participate, we welcome their assistance and will provide all needed supplies.

Cabbage seedpod weevil survey is done at early flower by taking a set of 25 sweeps with a sweep net. The number of cabbage seedpod weevils, lygus and diamondback moth larvae are reported. In addition we have a reporting tool which agronomists can report the cabbage seedpod weevil numbers they are finding.

The grasshopper survey is carried out by agriculture fieldmen (during early August) in their county each year. The results are tabulated by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This is the most heavily utilized survey of the seven we coordinate.

Wheat midge and wheat stem sawfly surveys are carried out after harvest each year. The sawfly survey involves assessing the percentage of sawfly cut stems in 4 locations, 1 meter long, in each field. This survey is done in the traditional wheat stem sawfly area of southern Alberta and eastern central Alberta. Wheat midge is surveyed in all wheat growing areas of Alberta. This survey involves taking soil cores and washing overwintering larvae out of the soil. From this a forecast is prepared on the risk of midge populations the next year. **If you have a wheat field that we could survey please contact us at the email provided below.**

We never drive in fields, rather parking on the roadside and walk in. We ALWAYS use sterilized boots or boot covers when entering fields and any tools that are used (eg. soil sampler, etc.) are sterilized between fields. Our field entry protocol can be found on our website.

Agriculture Fieldmen receive a year-end report for their county. Any producer that volunteers a field (or fields) will also get a year-end report from our program on what was found.

The program email is bugs.r.us@gov.ab.ca

Insect monitoring/information website: www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bugs-pest