Risk Forecast for Bertha Armyworm in Manitoba in 2024

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 9 to August 3 in 2024).

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 August 3, 2024)

Data from pheromone-baited traps for bertha armyworm has been reported from 82 locations in Manitoba.

August 3, 2024

Manitoba

- Counts remained in the low risk category in most traps, although in a trap near Killarney and one north of the Pas, the cumulative counts went into the uncertain risk category. Cumulative counts were generally higher in the western part of Manitoba. Trap counts peaked this year in mid- to late-July (see Figure 3).
- Berth armyworms have been found in 79 out of 82 traps that counts were reported from.
- The highest cumulative trap count is 365 from a trap near Killarney in the Southwest region.
- As of early-August, some high populations of bertha armyworm larvae were being found and controlled in the Southwest region of Manitoba, and the western part of the Central region.

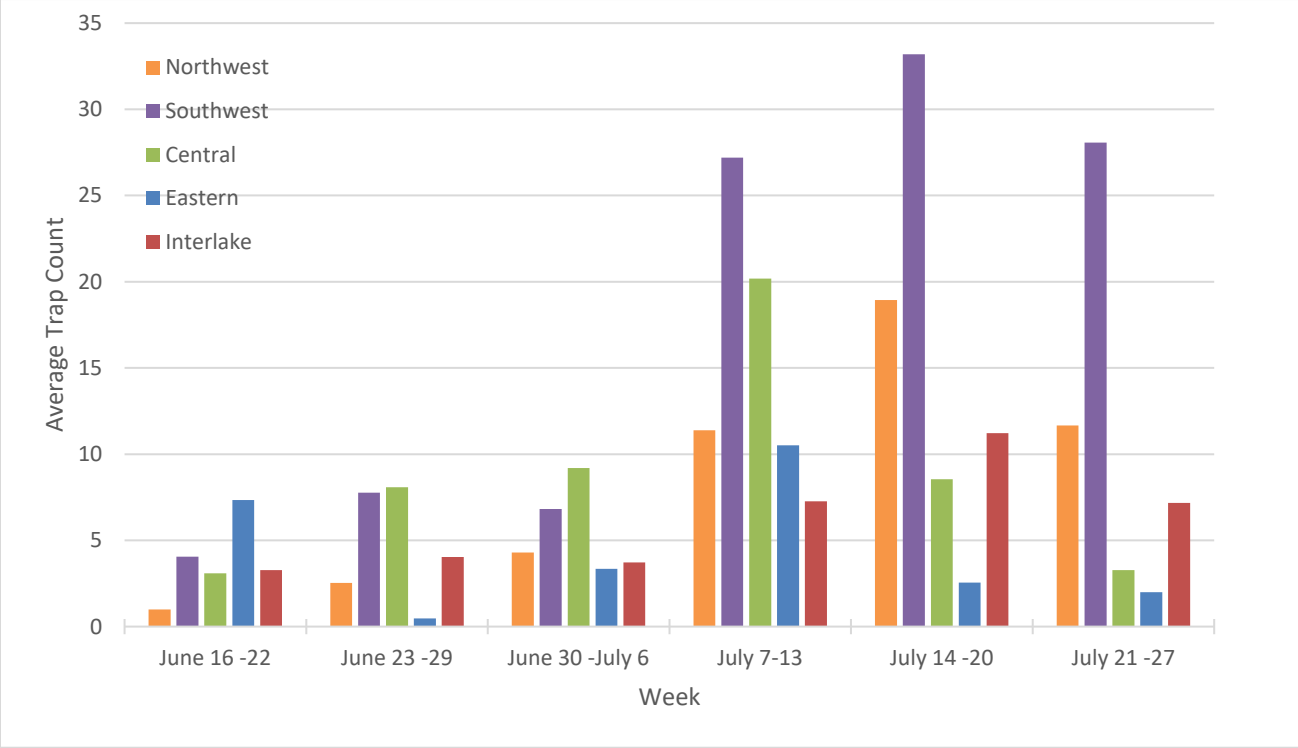

Figure 3. Average weekly trap counts for Bertha armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba.

Table 1. Highest cumulative counts of bertha armyworm moths from five agricultural regions of Manitoba as of August 3, 2024.

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 North	330	Birch River	59	Roblin South	27
The Pas East	100	Bowsman	58	Craigsford	25

Durban	97	Makaroff South	55	Russell	25
Bowsman North	90	Dropmore	38	Grandview	22
Grandview	79	Deepdale	28	Swan River	13
Minitonas	71	Roblin North	28	Bield	10
Southwest					
Killarney	365	Ninga	98	Pierson North	41
Decker	218	Pierson East	89	Belmont	37
Birtle	213	Brandon East	63	Glenboro	17
Cypress River	174	Hilton	45	Baldur	8
Whitehead	159	Rivers	45	Sandy Lake	8
Crandall	99	Melita	42	Elphinstone	5
Central					
Horndean	76	St. Joseph	58	Starbuck	45
Morris	64	Rosenfeld	54	Emerson	43
Haywood	63	Elm Creek	50	Fannystelle	30
Altona	60	Wingham	49	Rosenort	4
Eastern					
Whitemouth	56	Beausejour	37	Ste. Anne	25
Stead	52	Tourond	35	Hadashville	4

Interlake					
Silver Bay	115	Meadows	64	Riverton	28
Teulon East	110	Arborg	63	Faulkner	22
Rockwood	101	Silver Bay	60	Rosser	17
Pleasant Home	84	Morweena	45	Clandeboye	14
Lundar	83	Teulon	45	East Selkirk	13
Gimli	71	Vidir	34	Ledwyn	13

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.pdf