

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2015

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The 2015 sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) forecast map for the Red River Valley is shown in Figure 1. Areas at high risk include rural Auburn, Cavalier, Minto, Grand Forks, Reynolds, St. Thomas, and Thompson, ND, as well as Ada, MN. Moderate risk is expected near Crystal, Forest River, Johnstown, Oakwood, and Reynolds, ND, and Borup and Euclid, MN. The remainder of the area is at low risk. Although many sites had high fly activity during 2014, root injury ratings indicated that some of those fields incurred low levels of SBRM feeding injury. This could indicate that control efforts in those fields were successful; however, other fields in the vicinity of those fields could still be at risk of damaging infestations this year.

SBRM populations can increase rapidly from year to year. Proximity to previous-year beet fields where populations were high and/or control was unsatisfactory during the previous year increases risk. Sugarbeet fields near those where high fly activity occurred in 2014 should be closely monitored in 2015. Growers in high-risk areas should use an aggressive form of at-plant insecticide treatment (i.e., granular insecticide) and a postemergence rescue insecticide (i.e., banded granules or peak-fly spray). Those in moderate-risk areas using insecticidal seed treatments for at-plant protection should closely monitor fly activity levels in their areas, and be ready to apply additive postemergence protection if needed. Growers in known SBRM-risk areas should pay close attention to fly activity levels in their fields in late-May through June to determine if postemergence treatment is needed.

NDSU Entomology will continue to inform growers regarding SBRM activity levels and hot spots each year through radio reports, the NDSU "Crop & Pest Report", and alerts through sugar cooperative agricultural staff when appropriate. Root maggot fly count information for the current season and from previous years can be viewed at: <http://www.ndsu.edu/entomology/people/faculty/boetel/flycounts/>.

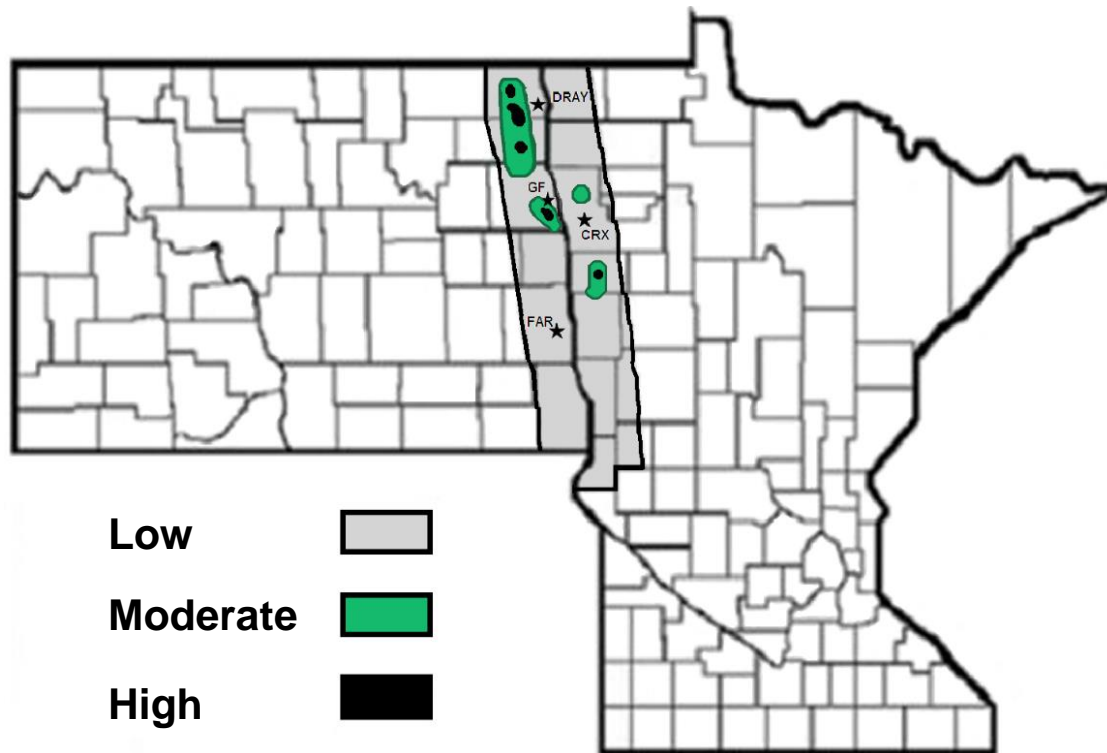


Fig. 1. Anticipated risk of SBRM fly activity and damaging larval infestations in the Red River Valley.