

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2012

Mark A. Boetel, Associate Professor
Robert J. Dregseth and Allen J. Schroeder, Research Specialists

Department of Entomology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND

The 2012 forecast map for anticipated sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) fly activity in the Red River Valley is shown in Figure 1. Areas at high risk of damaging SBRM infestations include rural Auburn, Cavalier, Conway, Glasston, Grafton, St. Thomas, and Thompson, ND. Moderate risk is expected near Forest River, Grand Forks, Minto, Nash, and Reynolds, ND, as well as near Ada, Borup, Climax, Crookston, and Euclid, MN. The remainder of the Valley will be at low risk of damaging infestations. Despite high fly activity occurring at many monitoring sites in 2011, several incurred low levels of SBRM feeding injury. This could indicate that SBRM control efforts were successful in the 2011 growing season. Also, as a result of excessive rainfall events that occurred in much of the Valley, root disease was prevalent in most SBRM fly monitoring sites. This made it difficult to positively confirm SBRM feeding injury in those sites. Fields in areas where high fly activity occurred in 2011 should be closely monitored in 2012. Populations can increase rapidly from year to year, especially if they are not effectively managed. Proximity to previous-year beet fields increases risk for damaging SBRM infestations, especially when beets are planted near fields in which SBRM control was unsatisfactory the previous year. Growers in areas at moderate to high risk of damaging infestations should continue using insecticides at planting time and pay close attention to fly activity levels during late May and the first few weeks of June to decide whether a postemergence insecticide 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 notification of sugar cooperative agricultural staff when appropriate. In-season SBRM fly count information and historical records from monitoring programs from previous years can be viewed at: <http://www.ndsu.edu/entomology/people/faculty/boetel/flycounts/>.

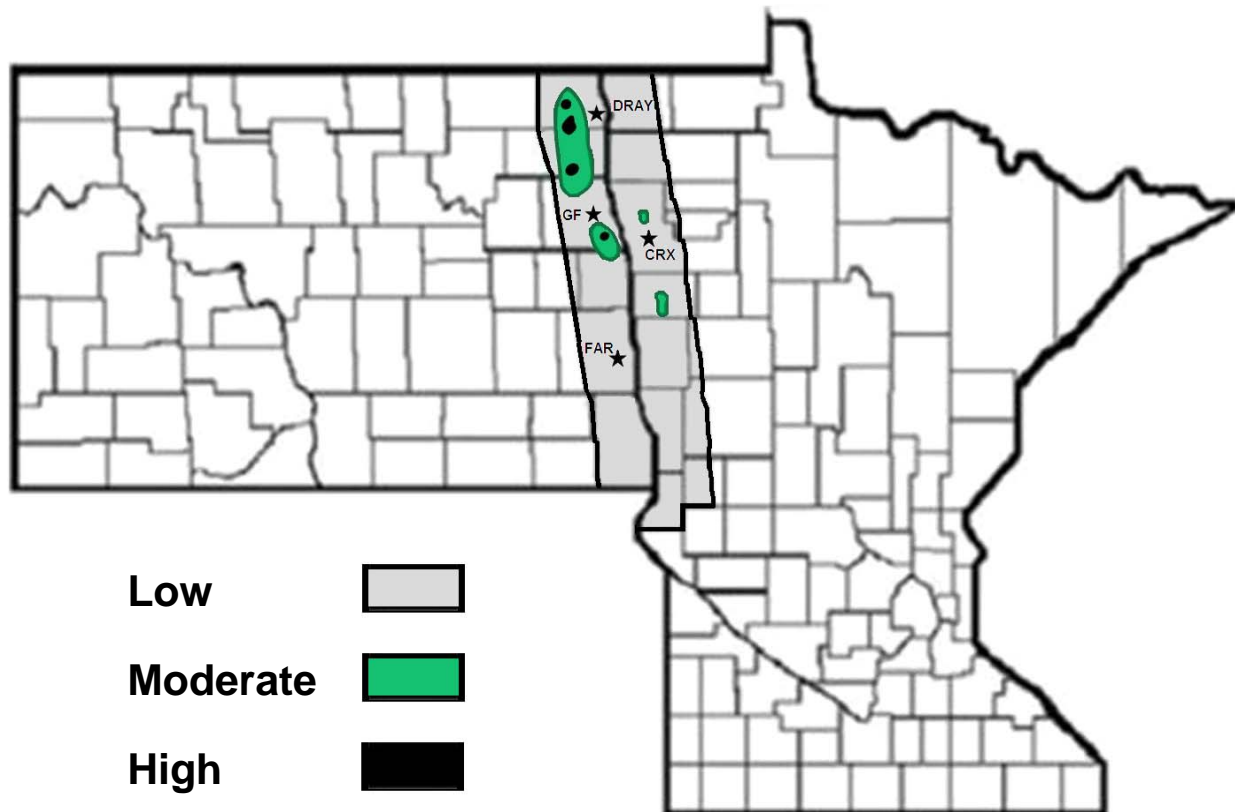


Fig. 1. Anticipated SBRM population levels for the Red River Valley.