

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT POPULATION FORECAST FOR 2009

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

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

The 2009 forecast for sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) fly activity in the Red River Valley is presented in Figure 1. Sticky-stake trapping and root scarring surveys conducted by NDSU throughout the area indicate that the highest activity is likely to occur in the northern portion of the Valley. Specific areas at high risk include rural Forest River, Grafton, and St. Thomas, ND. High infestations are also possible near Borup, Baker, Euclid, and Sabin, MN. Moderate risk is expected near Amenia, Cavalier, Casselton, Grand Forks, Hillsboro, Minto, Nash, and Reynolds, ND, and Ada, Crookston, and Oslo, MN. The remainder of the growing area is at low risk.

Growers near expected problem areas and those where maggots have caused problems in the past should be wary of the possibility for sudden increases in fly activity. Even moderate root maggot fly infestations can quickly erupt into major problems. Proximity to previous-year beet fields, especially where root maggot control was unsatisfactory the previous year, increases risk for damaging infestations. Weather can affect the precision of this forecast, and infestations can vary significantly among fields. Growers in areas of risk 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. Producers are also encouraged to review research findings published in recent volumes of "Research and Extension Reports" and to use the Sugarbeet Production Guide to design effective pest management programs to fit their production systems. 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.

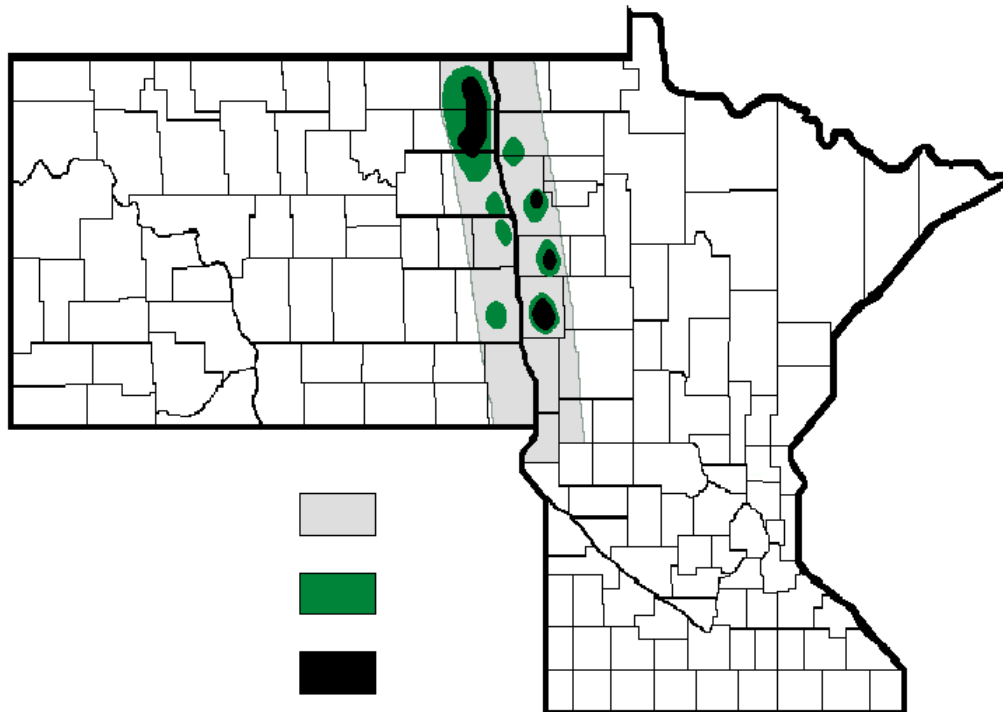


Fig. 1. Anticipated SBRM population levels for the Red River Valley.