

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT FORECAST FOR THE 2020 GROWING SEASON

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The 2020 sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) forecast map for the Red River Valley (RRV) is shown in the figure below. The 2019 growing season marked the third consecutive year of significant increases in fly activity and SBRM feeding injury at several RRV locations. This suggests that SBRM infestations in 2020 will generally be higher than in previous years. Areas at highest risk of damaging SBRM infestations include rural Auburn, Bathgate, Cavalier, Crystal, Glasston, Grand Forks, Merrifield, St. Thomas, Thompson, and Walhalla, ND, as well as Argyle, Crookston, Donaldson, East Grand Forks, Eldred, and Stephen, MN. Moderate risk is expected in areas bordering high-risk zones, as well as fields near Drayton, Buxton, Forest River, Hamilton, Nash, Oakwood, and Reynolds, ND, and Ada, Crookston, Eldred, and Fisher, MN. The remainder of the area is at lower risk. Proximity to previous-year beet fields where SBRM populations were high and/or control was unsatisfactory can increase risk. Sugarbeet fields near those where high fly activity occurred in 2019 should be closely monitored in 2020. Growers in high-risk areas should use an aggressive form of at-plant insecticide treatment (i.e., granular insecticide) and expect the need for 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 monitor fly activity levels closely in their area, and be ready to apply additive protection if justified. Any grower in an area with a history of SBRM problems should pay close attention to fly activity levels in late-May through June to decide 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 notification of sugar cooperative agricultural staff when appropriate. Root maggot fly counts for the current growing season and those from previous years can be viewed at: <http://www.ndsu.edu/entomology/people/faculty/boetel/flycounts/>.

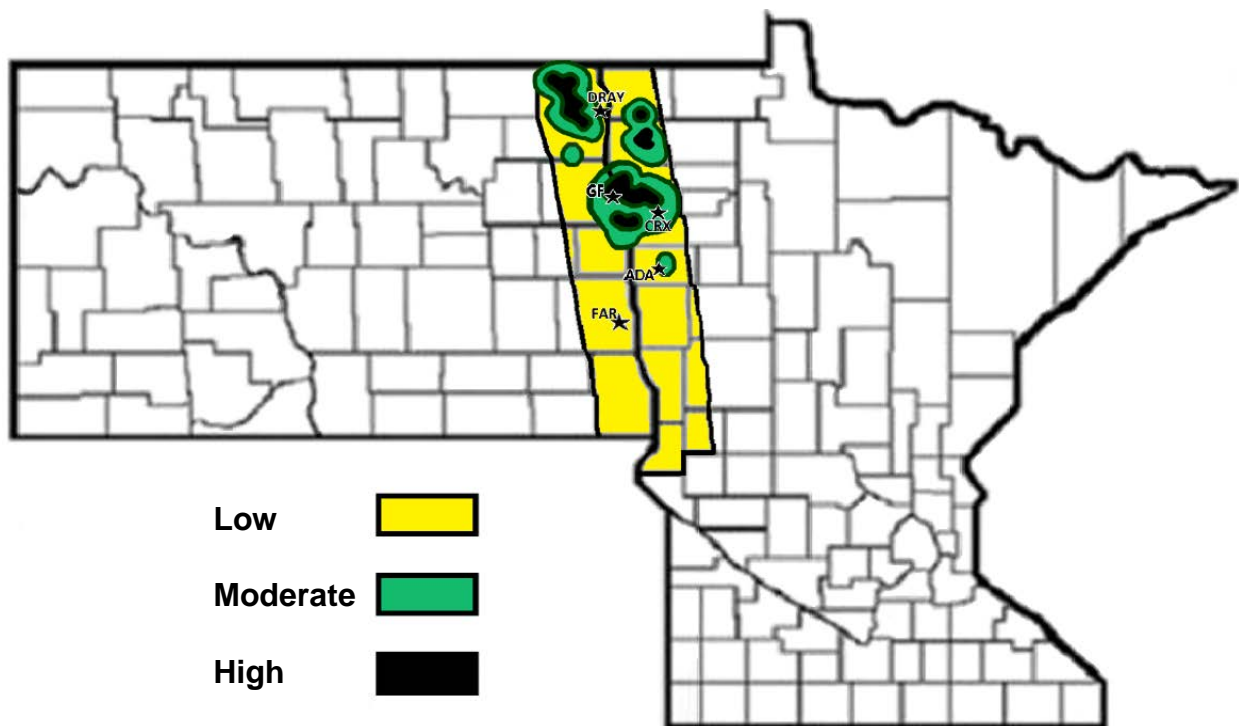


Fig. 1. Anticipated risk of SBRM fly activity and damaging larval infestations in the Red River Valley.

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