

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT FORECAST FOR THE 2021 GROWING SEASON

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The 2021 sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) risk map for the Red River Valley appears in the figure below. Valley-wide, SBRM fly activity was significantly greater in 2020 than in the three previous years. The 2020 infestations were the second highest in the past 14 years. Root injury surveys suggest that some areas will have higher populations in 2021.

Areas at highest risk of damaging SBRM infestations include rural Auburn, Bathgate, Buxton, Cavalier, Crystal, Drayton, Glasston, Hamilton, Hoople, Reynolds, St. Thomas, and Thompson, N.D., and Argyle, Crookston, Donaldson, East Grand Forks, and Warren, Minn. Moderate risk is expected in areas bordering high-risk zones, as well as fields near Emerado, Forest River, Grand Forks, Leroy, Merrifield, Minto, Neche, and Voss, N.D., and near Ada, Angus, Fisher, Kennedy, Sabin, Sherack, and Stephen, Minn. The rest of the area is at lower risk.

Proximity to previous-year beet fields where populations were high and/or control was unsatisfactory can increase risk. Areas where high fly activity occurred in 2020 should be monitored closely in 2021. Growers in high-risk areas should use an aggressive form of at-plant insecticide treatment (granular insecticide) and expect the need for a postemergence rescue insecticide.

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. 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 <https://tinyurl.com/SBRM-FlyCounts>.

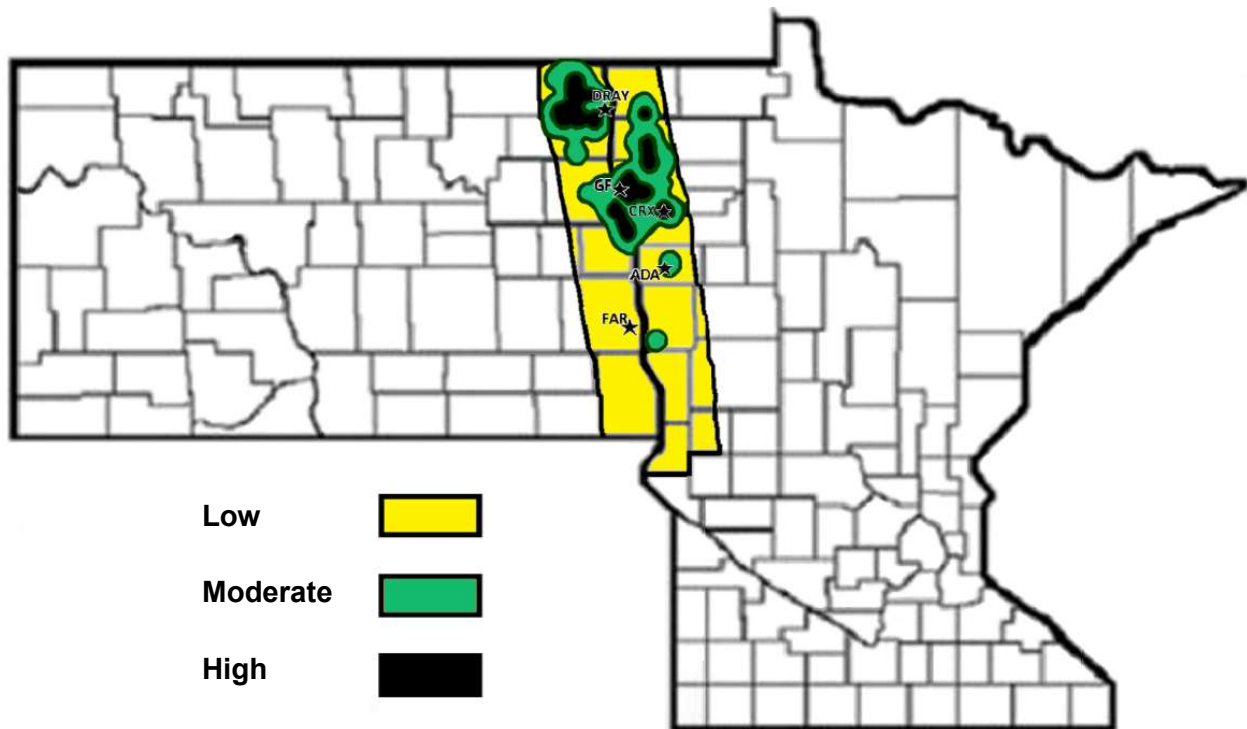


Fig. 1. Anticipated risk of SBRM fly activity and damaging larval infestations in the Red River Valley.

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