

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT FORECAST FOR THE 2024 GROWING SEASON

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The 2024 map for anticipated risk of sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) fly activity in the Red River Valley appears in the figure below. Root maggot fly activity has been on an upward trend for the past several years, and 2023 populations were the third-highest recorded in the past 17 growing seasons. The high infestations in 2023 suggest that many areas in the Valley are at high risk for having economically damaging SBRM infestations in 2024.

Areas at highest risk of SBRM problems in 2024 include rural Auburn, Backoo, Bathgate, Bowesmont, Buxton, Cavalier, Crystal, Drayton, Hensel, Oakwood, Reynolds, St. Thomas, Thompson, Veseleyville, and Voss, ND, as well as Ada, Argyle, Climax, Crookston, Donaldson, East Grand Forks, Oslo, Sabin, Stephen and Warren, MN. Moderate risk is expected in areas bordering high-risk zones, as well as fields near Forest River, Glasston, Grand Forks, Hamilton, Manvel, Merrifield, and Minto, ND, and Angus, Euclid, Kennedy, Borup, Tabor, Eldred, Fisher, and Tabor, MN. The rest of the area is at low risk.

Proximity to previous-year beet fields where populations were high and/or control was unsatisfactory can increase risk for damaging SBRM infestations. Areas where high fly activity occurred in 2023 should be monitored closely in 2024. Growers in high-risk areas should use an aggressive at-plant insecticide treatment (e.g., granular insecticide or a combination of tools) and expect the need to apply a postemergence rescue insecticide.

Those in moderate-risk areas using insecticidal seed treatments for at-plant protection should monitor fly 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 determine the need for a postemergence insecticide application.

NDSU Entomology personnel will continue to inform growers regarding SBRM activity levels and hot spots each year through radio reports, the NDSU “Crop and Pest Report” web postings, 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>.

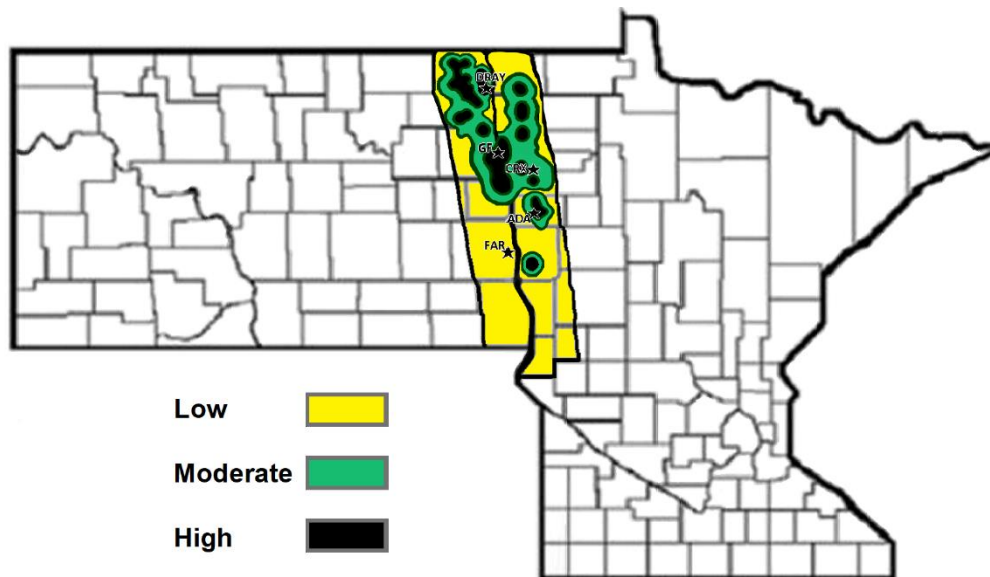


Fig. 1. Anticipated risk of SBRM fly activity and damaging larval infestations in the Red River Valley.

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