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IPM INSECT REPORT FOR WHEAT & BARLEY

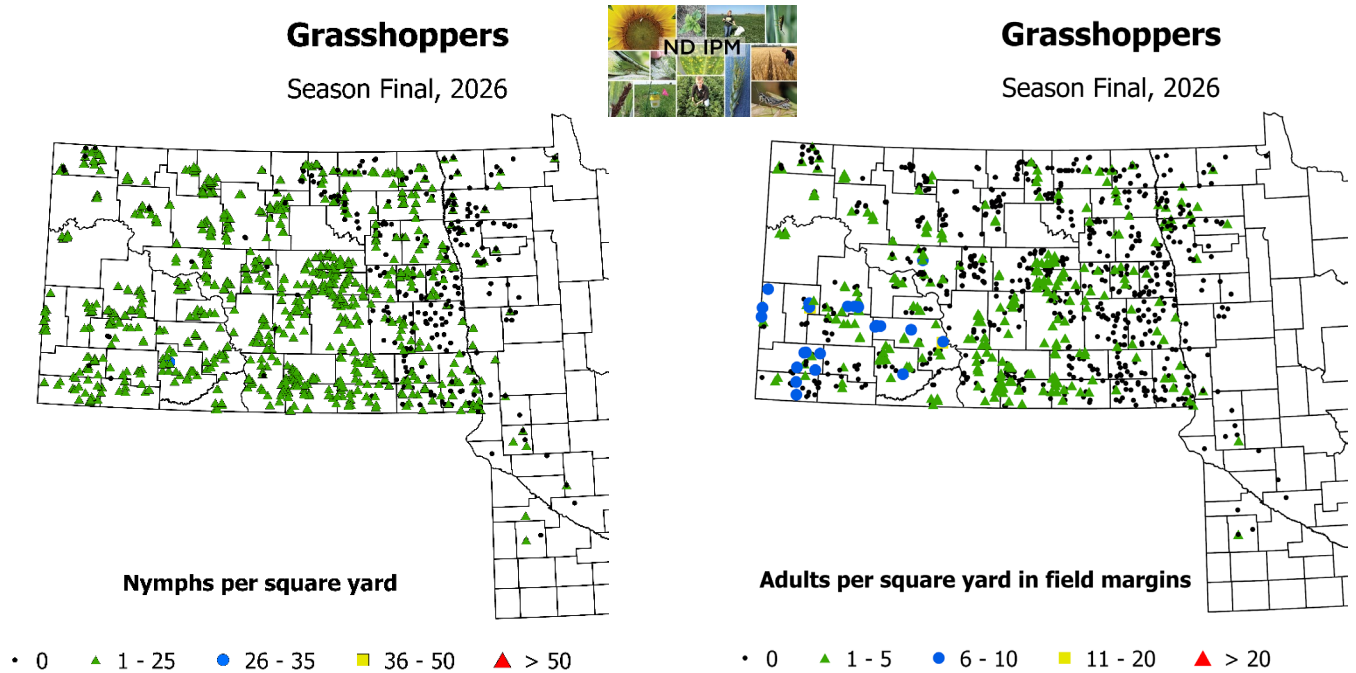
The IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Crop Survey helps North Dakota farmers, crop consultants, and ag audiences stay up to date on important diseases and insect pests affecting wheat and barley grown in North Dakota. Ten IPM scouts and insect trappers operated out of the Dickinson Research Extension Center, the North Central Research Extension Center (Minot), the Carrington Research Extension Center, the Langdon Research Extension Center, the Williston Research Extension Center and the Fargo Agricultural Experiment Station.

NDSU IPM field scouts surveyed 469 wheat fields (winter wheat, hard red spring wheat, durum wheat) and 95 barley fields for 18 diseases and 6 insect pests in North Dakota. The survey started on June 1st and continued through August 15th. Crops were surveyed from the 2-leaf (seedling) stage through the ripening stages. IPM survey data/maps provided near-real-time pest information to North Dakota farmers and other agricultural professionals, assisting with scouting and pest management decision-making. Pest maps from the 2026 IPM Survey in North Dakota were uploaded weekly onto the [NDSU IPM website](#).

Key highlights of insect pests affecting wheat and barley in North Dakota are summarized below.

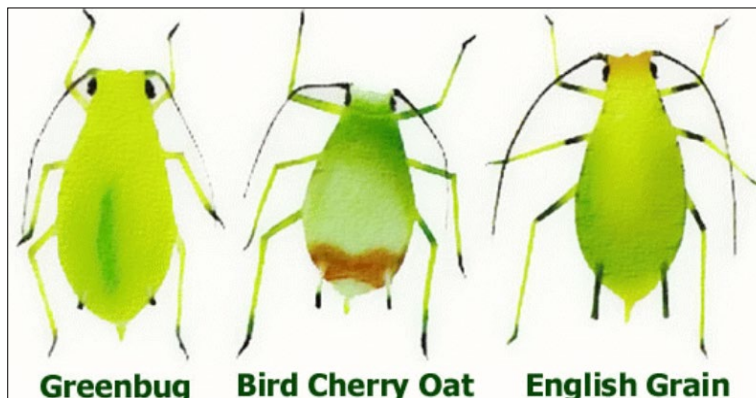
Grasshoppers were surveyed in all crops, including wheat, barley, soybeans and sunflowers. Grasshoppers were observed in 27% of the fields surveyed (1247 fields total) in 2026 in North Dakota. This indicates a significantly lower prevalence of grasshoppers compared to 2025 (74%), 2024 (83%), 2023 (68%), 2022 (90%), 2021 and 2020 (91%), and 2019 (86%). The number of adult grasshoppers per 4 sweeps (1 yd²) ranged from 0 to 5 in 2026, similar to 6 in 2025 and less than a high of 76 in 2024. The number of nymph grasshoppers per 4 sweeps (1 yd²) ranged from 0 to 32 in 2026.

Overall, the 2026 grasshopper densities were much lower in North Dakota. The cool, wet conditions from mid-May through June 2026 helped reduce the severity of grasshopper populations and damage to field crops in most areas. The hot spots were located in southwestern North Dakota.



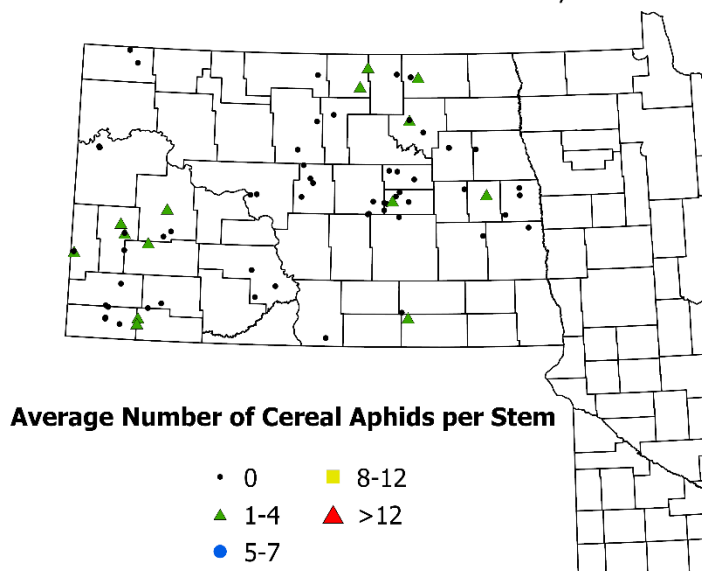
Insect Pests of Small Grains:

Grain aphids were observed in 33 counties, 15% of the wheat fields and in 10 counties, 15% of the barley fields in 2026. The 2026 grain aphid populations were lower than in 2025 (25%) and 2024 (29%) in wheat, and lower than in 2025 (40%) and 2024 (21%) in barley. Grain aphids were first detected in early June, with peak populations in late July in North Dakota. In wheat, the average number of aphids per stem ranged from 0 to 11. In barley, the average number of aphids per stem was non-economic (ranged from 0 to 3). The majority of wheat fields surveyed were below the economic threshold (E.T.). Wheat and barley fields that reached E.T. are shown in yellow squares or red triangles on maps.

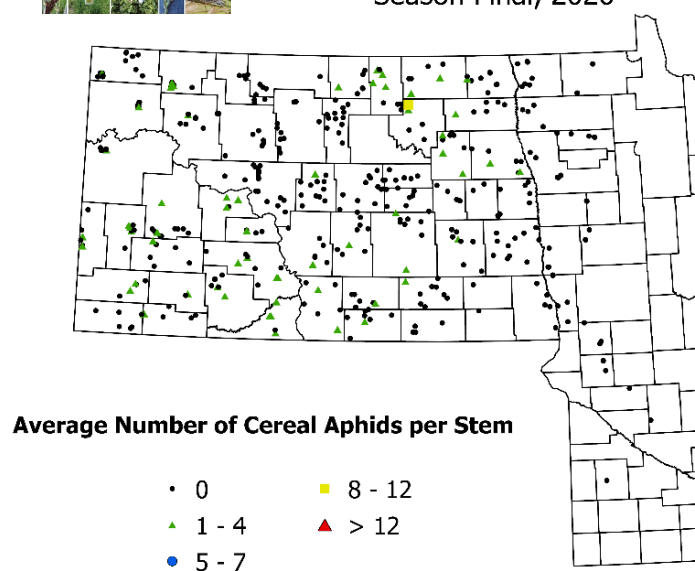


Aphids in Barley

Season Final, 2026

**Aphids in Wheat**

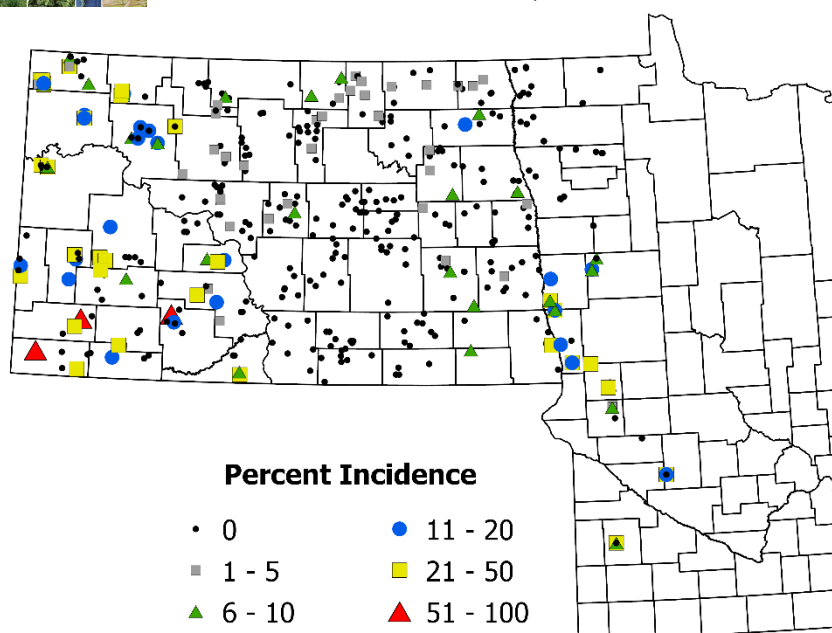
Season Final, 2026



Wheat stem maggot was observed in 36 counties across 24% of surveyed wheat fields in North Dakota from late June through early August. White head damage from wheat stem maggot ranged from 0 to 82%. In 2025 and 2024, the prevalence of wheat fields infested was lower: 32% and 17%, respectively. Also, a lower percentage of heads was damaged in 2025 (0-48%) and in 2024 (0-36%). The counties with the highest damage, exceeding 50% of the head, included Bowman (62%), Grant (82%), and Slope (72%) in the southwest region of North Dakota. Overall, wheat stem maggot populations were higher in 2026 compared to 2025 and 2024.

**Wheat Stem Maggot Incidence**

Season Final, 2026

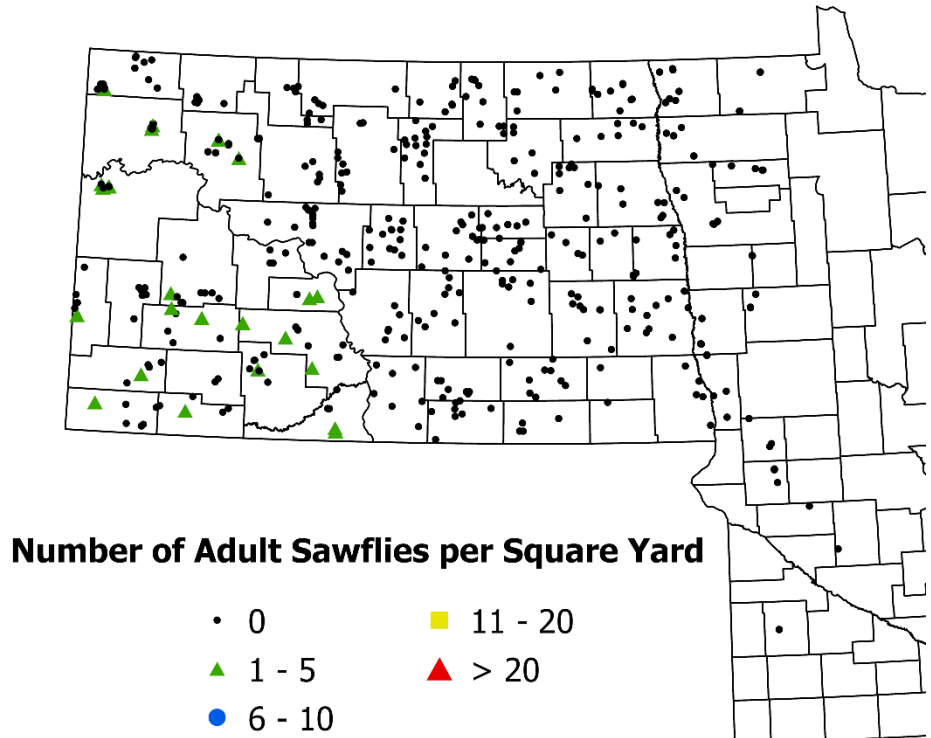


Wheat stem sawfly was collected using 15-inch sweep nets in 14 counties and 6% of the wheat fields surveyed from late June to early August, with a peak in early July in 2026. However, the prevalence of wheat stem sawfly was slightly higher in 2025, with 8% of surveyed wheat fields positive. In 2026, the number of adult sawflies per 20 sweeps ranged from 0 to 6 adults and 0-1.2 wheat stem sawfly adults per square yard. In contrast, for 2025, the number of adult sawflies per 20 sweeps was again higher and ranged from 0 to 71 adults and 0 to 14.2 wheat stem sawfly adults per square yard. Wheat stem sawfly was most common in the northwest (Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Williams counties), and southwest (Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Morton, Sioux, Slope, Stark counties); and west central (Oliver County).



Wheat Stem Sawfly

Season Final, 2026

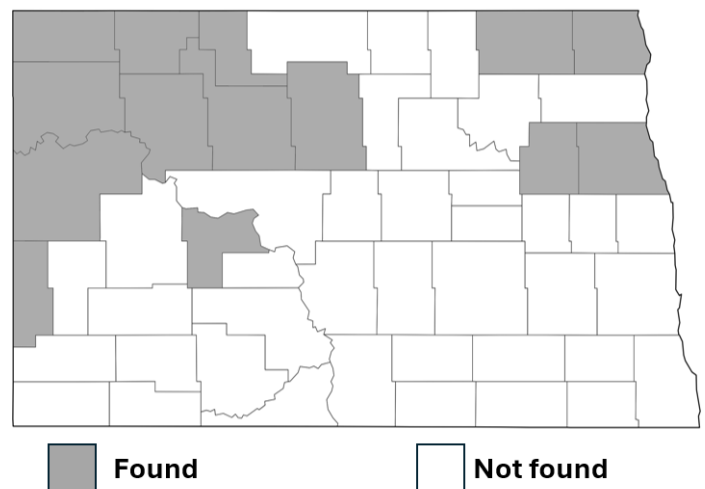


Cereal leaf beetle was only observed on wheat in Pembina and Ward counties of North Dakota in 2026. This positive observation in Pembina County is a **new county record** for the cereal leaf beetle in North Dakota. No cereal leaf beetle was observed in the barley fields survey in 2026.

The cereal leaf beetle was first detected in 2000 in Williams and McKenzie counties, North Dakota. Since then, 14 counties are positive for the cereal leaf beetle:

- Northwest: Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams
- North central: McHenry, Renville and Ward
- Southwest: Golden Valley and Mercer
- Northeast: Cavalier, Nelson, Pembina and Grand Forks.

Cereal Leaf Beetle Distribution in North Dakota 2026

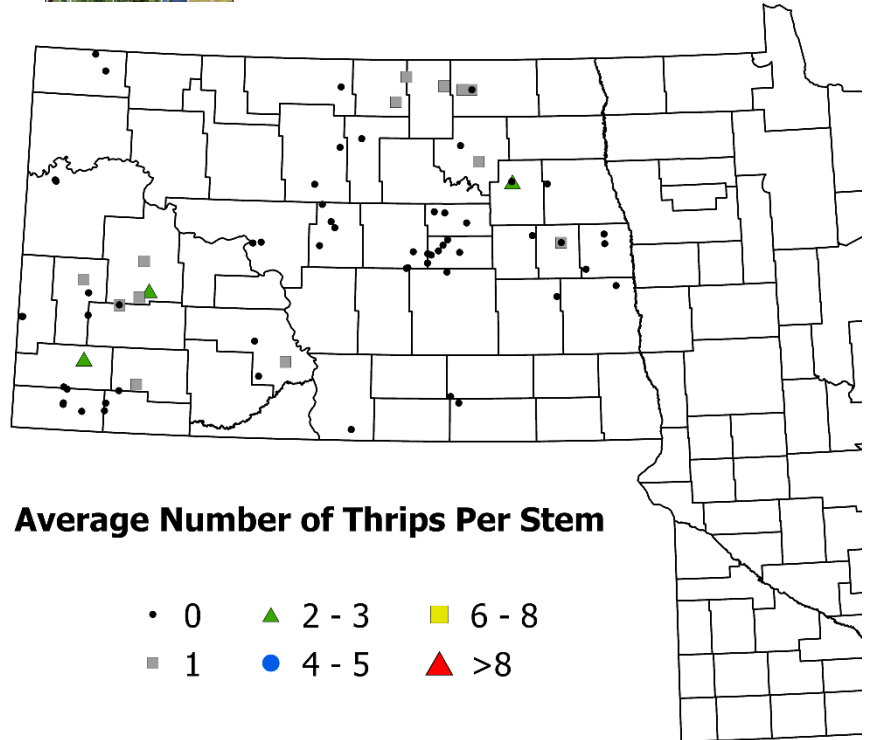


Barley thrips were observed in 12 counties and 18% of barley fields surveyed in North Dakota from late June through mid-August. The average number of thrips per stem ranged from 0 to 2. No surveyed barley fields exceeded the economic threshold of 5-6 thrips per stem in 2026 (blue, yellow or red symbols on the map). Barley thrips were most common in the north central, northeast and southwest regions of North Dakota in 2026. No barley thrips were observed in barley fields surveyed in 2025 and 2024.



Barley Thrips

Season Final, 2026



IPM INSECT REPORT FOR SOYBEAN

NDSU IPM scouts surveyed 476 soybean fields in 38 counties of North Dakota during 2026. The survey was initiated in early June and continued through August 15. Soybeans were surveyed from the VE stage to the R6 growth stage. Key highlights of insect pests affecting soybeans in North Dakota are summarized below.

Soybean aphids were observed in 29 counties and about 12% of the soybean fields surveyed in 2026. This was lower than in 2025, when 24% of the field was infested with soybean aphids. Soybean aphids were observed from mid-June to mid-August, primarily in the Red River Valley area of North Dakota. The percentage of plants infested with soybean aphids in fields ranged from 5% to 100%. The average number of aphids per plant was 12.5, ranging from 0 to 206 aphids per plant. In 2025, the average number of aphids per plant was twice as high, at 25, with counts ranging from 0 to 406. Most of the positive fields were located in the southeast, south central and northeast regions of North Dakota. No surveyed field reached the economic threshold (E.T.) for soybean aphids (average of 250 aphids per plant, 80% of plants infested with one or more aphids, and increasing population levels). However, Walsh County had one field near the E.T. with 100% incidence and an average of 206 aphids per plant. The cool, wet May and June kept soybean aphid populations low early in the season, and then the hot, dry conditions in July and August slowed aphid reproduction. Pyrethroid-resistant soybean aphids continue to be observed in the Red River Valley region.

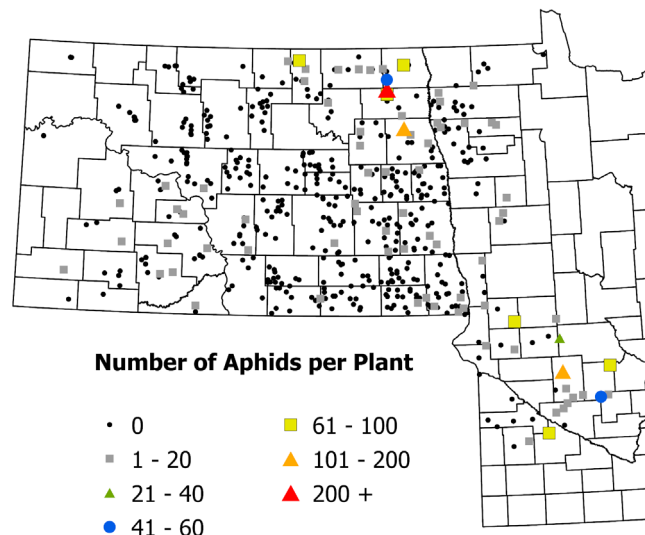
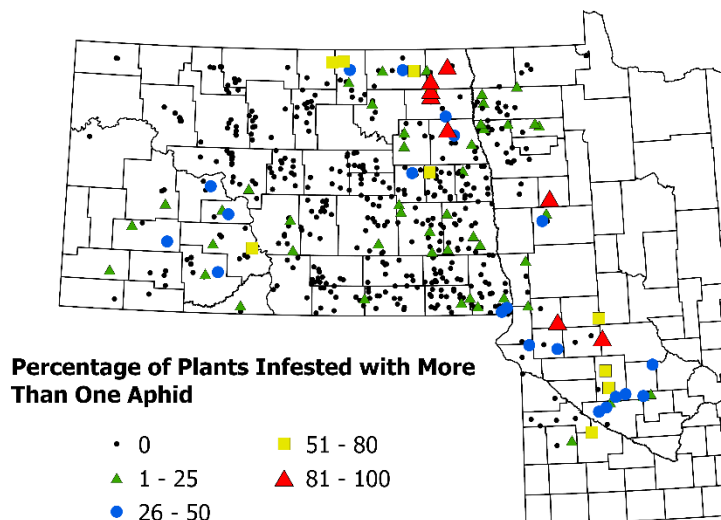
Soybean Aphids Incidence

Season Final, 2026



Soybean Aphids

Season Final, 2026



Bean leaf beetles were sampled using a sweep net and by visually estimating the defoliation (circular holes) in soybean foliage. Sweep net sampling ranged from 0 to 19 beetles per 50 sweeps. Defoliation was observed in 22% of the fields scouted, with defoliation levels ranging from 1 to 14%. The bean leaf beetle was present in southeast, east-central, and south-central North Dakota in 2026. Most of the soybean fields surveyed were not at the economic threshold for bean leaf beetle. The second generation of adult bean leaf beetles, which feeds on pods during late August through September, caused some isolated damage to seed pods due to favorable conditions (warm, dry weather).

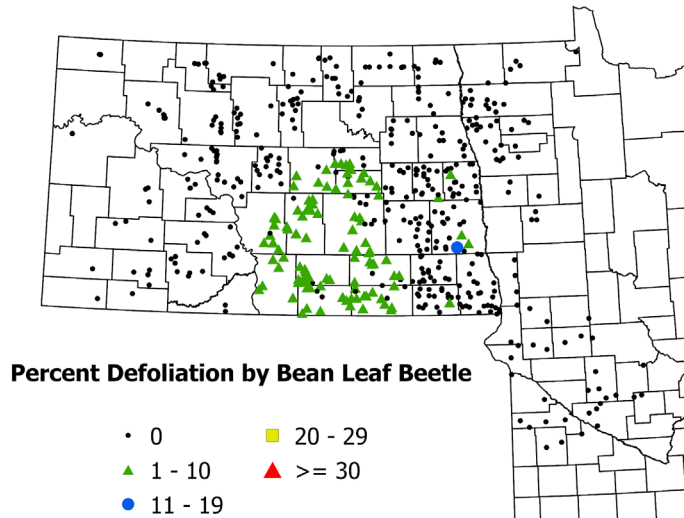
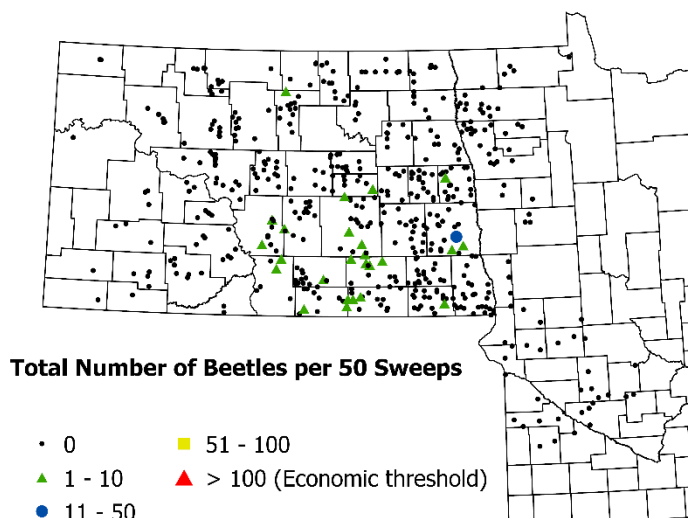
Soybean - Bean Leaf Beetle

Season Final, 2026



Soybean - Bean Leaf Beetle

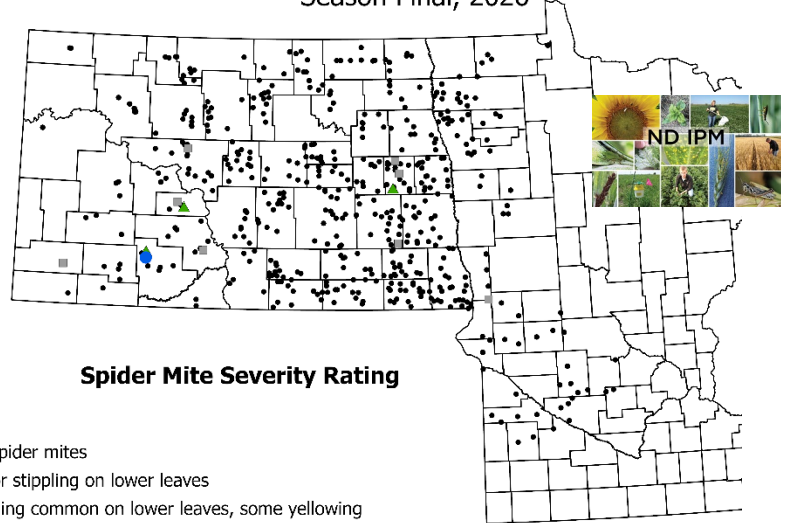
Season Final, 2026



Spider mites were found during late July through mid-August in 2% of the soybean fields surveyed in southwest and east central North Dakota. However, Extension Entomology received several calls about spider mites due to favorable conditions (hot temperatures and dry weather).

Soybean - Spider Mites on Field Edge

Season Final, 2026



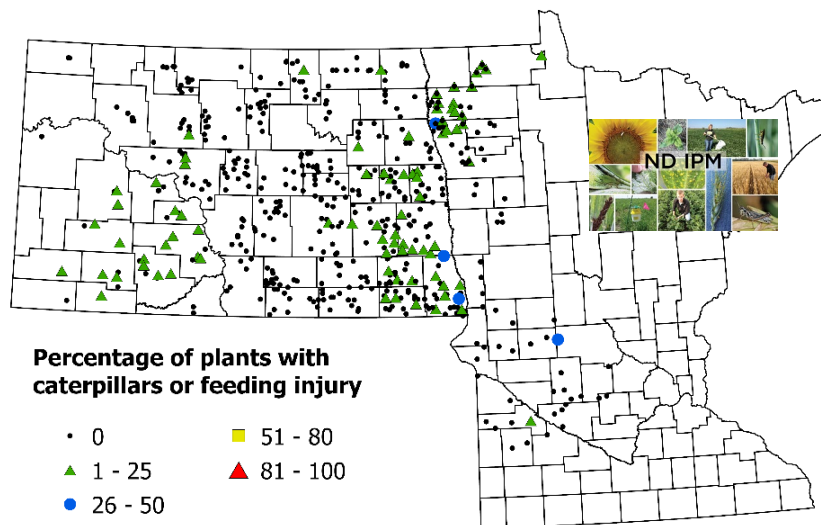
Foliage-Feeding Caterpillars

This group includes green cloverworms, thistle caterpillars, alfalfa webworm, velvetbean caterpillars, soybean loopers and other caterpillars that feed on soybean foliage or pods.

Foliage-feeding caterpillars were found during late June through mid-August in 13% of the soybean fields surveyed. Incidence ranged from 0% to 30%, and percent defoliation ranged from 0% to 6%. All fields were below the economic threshold of 10-30% defoliation, depending on growth stage.

Soybean Foliage Feeding Caterpillar Incidence

Season Final, 2026



Soybean gall midge was detected in **two new counties in North Dakota: Richland and Dickey**. Both 2026 detections were near the North Dakota–South Dakota border. However, 472 fields across 38 counties were surveyed in 2026 and found to be free of soybean gall midge infestation.

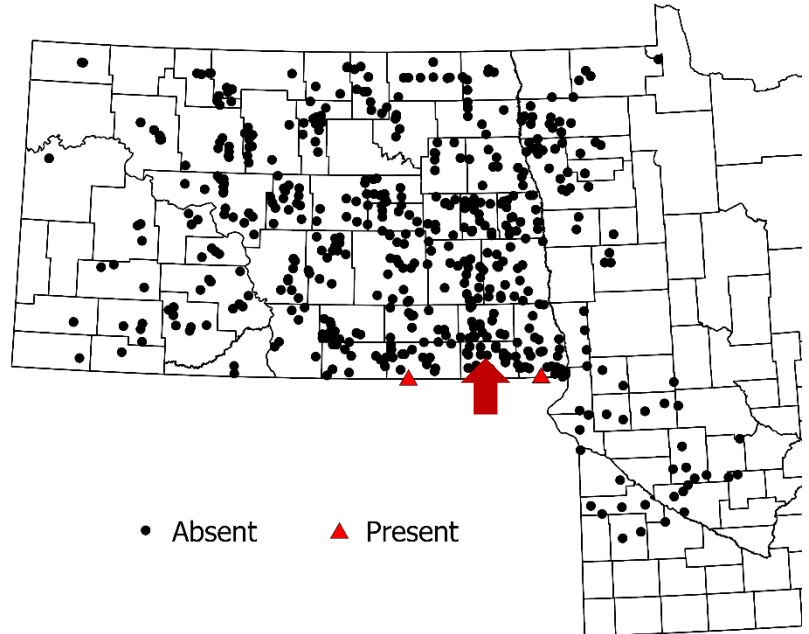
The first detection of soybean gall midge was in Sargent County, near Gwinner, in 2022 (red arrow on map). From 2023 to 2025, there were no new detections, perhaps due to the drought.

It is important to continue to survey for soybean gall midge to document its spread in North Dakota. North Dakota soybean growers need to be aware of this invasive insect pest's distribution and how to identify its feeding injury symptoms in the field. At this time, it is not an economic or yield-limiting insect pest in North Dakota soybeans. However, soybean gall midge has caused sporadic but economically significant infestations in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota and has also been detected in Kansas and Missouri. See the [Soybean Gall Midge Alert Network](#).



Soybean Gall Midge

Season Final, 2026

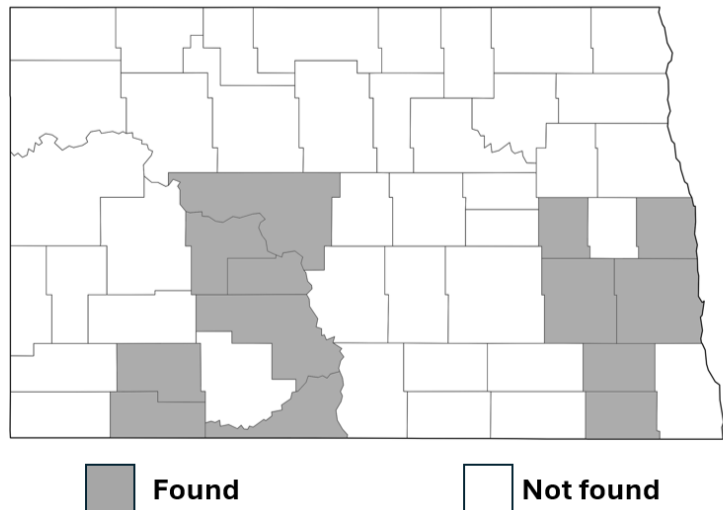


Soybean gall midge larvae under the outer epidermis of the stem (Emma Gullicks, NDSU IPM Scout)

Soybean tentiform leafminer was first found on soybeans in Minnesota in 2022 and then in southeastern North Dakota in 2023. Larvae create tentlike leaf mines in foliage, causing defoliation. Research is underway to understand its biology and pest management in soybeans.

Soybean tentiform leafminer has not reached an economically damaging population or caused sufficient defoliation to reduce soybean yields in North Dakota. It has been confirmed in 13 counties of North Dakota since 2023: Adams, Barnes, Cass, Griggs, Hettinger, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Ransom, Sargent, Sioux and Traill.

Soybean Tentiform Leafminer Distribution in North Dakota 2026



Japanese beetle was not found in any of the soybean fields surveyed in 2026. This beetle can cause significant defoliation to soybeans, especially in Iowa and southern Minnesota. Watch for it in your soybean fields in the future.



IPM INSECT REPORT FOR SUNFLOWER

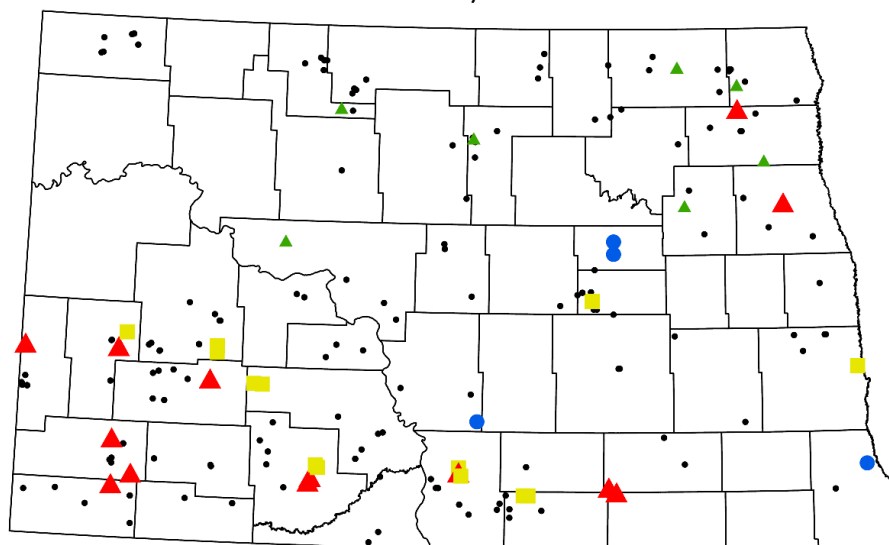
NDSU IPM scouts surveyed 213 sunflower fields across 43 counties in North Dakota in 2026. The survey was initiated in early June and continued through August 15. Sunflowers were scouted from the 2-leaf through R6 growth stages. Key highlights of insect pests affecting sunflowers in North Dakota are summarized below.

Red sunflower seed weevils were observed from R5 (flowering) through R6 (flowering complete), with peak emergence during late July to early August. The average number of weevils per head ranged from 0 to 25, with an average of 4.4 weevils per head. Approximately 97% of the sunflower heads were infested with weevils at the field edge, where as 82% of heads were infested with weevils within the field. In 2026, the E.T. for red sunflower seed weevils was more than 5 weevils per head for oilseed sunflowers, depending on market price, insecticide + application costs and plant populations. Approximately 31% of the fields surveyed were above the E.T. requiring an

insecticide application. The highest populations were located in southwestern and south-central North Dakota. IPM scouts observed over 100 weevils per head in Grant and Slope counties.

Red Sunflower Seed Weevils in Sunflower

Season Final, 2026



Average Number of Weevils per Head

• 0

▲ 1

● 2

■ 3 - 4

▲ 5 or more (economic threshold for oilseed sunflowers at 28 cents per lb)



Acknowledgments: In addition to the authors of this article, team members of the IPM Crop Survey Program include: Andrew Friskop, Sam Markell, Jeff Stachler and Wade Webster.

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Samantha Turnquist, IPM insect trapper, WREC

Scott Roseth, IPM scout, WREC

Scott Knoke, ANR Extension County Agent, Benson County

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SOYBEAN SEED PATHOGEN CONCERNS

As the soybean harvest is in full motion, there have been some concerns around seed quality. In more southern regions such as Iowa, near non-stop rains over the past few weeks have led to some severe cases of seed decay and seed diseases, but across much of North Dakota this has not been observed broadly. In most cases around here, the major issue is seeds drying prematurely due to drought stress. When identifying potential seed disease issues, make sure to take subsamples of harvested grain and inspect seed quality. Here are some common seed diseases you may see in your fields.

One disease could be Diaporthe seed decay, which causes soybeans to appear shriveled, chalky, or dusty (Figure 1). The presence of this white powder often indicates a fungal pathogen growing around the seeds, but this pathogen requires long periods of consistent moisture.

Another disease issue could be Cercospora purple seed stain, which causes a purple color that may appear on the seeds (Figure 2). This staining can sometimes be associated with Cercospora leaf blight on soybeans as well.

White mold, while not a major issue in the state this year, can also cause chalky soybeans at harvest (Figure 3). This is often also present with sclerotia, the overwintering structures.

Finally, certain viruses (Figure 4) can cause discoloration of soybean seeds, which may appear as though the hilum is bleeding or the seed coat is mottled. This has been attributed to multiple viral pathogens, and it is difficult to distinguish from visual inspections alone.



Figure 1. Shriveled soybean seeds with chalky appearance.



Figure 2. Soybeans with purple seed stain.
Credit: Adam Sisson



Figure 3. White mold infected seed lot. Notice the shrunken seed, chalky seeds, and the presence of sclerotia (black fungal structures).



Figure 4. Soybeans infected with viral pathogens exhibiting the bleeding hilum. Credit: Soybean Research and Information Network.



MANAGING YOUR MINDSET IN RESPONDING TO STRESS

In agriculture, it's not uncommon to "manage" a problem. For example, you might redirect some livestock away from a water source that is unhealthy, or you might manage a crop pest by using a particular pesticide and applying it to your field. But what about managing stress?

Research indicates that perhaps your most important strategy in responding to stress in farming or ranching is **managing your mindset**. In other words, how you think about challenges and creatively manage your attitudes and responses is critical to dealing with stress more effectively. Managing your mindset is really about controlling and directing your attitudes when stress occurs, and there are a few tips that can help in managing your mindset as it relates to stress.

Controlling Your Attitudes to Help Manage Stress

How individuals in farming or ranching view situations is a key factor in creating or diminishing unwanted stress. Here are some tips for managing your mindset and adopting healthy attitudes when faced with stress:

- **Focus on the big picture** – Though stress can pile up, keep things such as an equipment issue in perspective. For example: "I'm grateful that the tire blew out here in the field rather than on that big hill."
- **Address what you can and cannot change** – Some stresses cannot really be changed by you, such as a day of harvest lost to weather issues; but identify the ones you can change, such as getting more information about relief programs that fit your operation or circumstances.
- **Shift your focus from worry to problem-solving** – Rather than letting yourself feel overwhelmed, select activities that allow you to problem solve and maintain a productive mindset.
- **Think about how to turn challenges into opportunities** – Explore the new opportunities that might emerge for you when a challenge exists. Are there ways that you can creatively shift gears?
- **Notice what you have accomplished and celebrate it** – Farm and ranch work never really ends, so take time to identify and celebrate what you have accomplished. Avoid letting your mind dwell on unfinished tasks or what you didn't get done during a day or week.
- **Set realistic goals and expectations daily** – There's just 24 hours in a day – no one can use it all perfectly. Be realistic in the goals you set for daily or weekly work, and manage expectations for accomplishing it if other stresses interfere.

Access Helpful Resources

To learn more about available resources to assist in managing stress in agriculture, read the NDSU Extension publication FS1804, [“Farming and Ranching in Tough Times” NDSU Agriculture](#)

If you or someone you know is in need of mental health support, call or text the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, or chat at <https://988lifeline.org>.

Contact your NDSU Extension county office or search the Web for NDSU Extension farm stress for more resources on wellness in agriculture.



NDSU Extension reminds each of us to “check the signal” and think about how we are functioning mentally and physically. And—let’s talk about it!

[Sean Brotherson](#)

Extension Family Science Specialist

[Adriana Drusini](#)

Extension Farm and Ranch Stress Program Coordinator



AROUND THE STATE

NORTH CENTRAL ND

Small grain harvest is all but complete for a few fields. Some farmers are going back to get some of the low areas that the mud kept them out of previously. Because of the fall moisture, there has been a decent amount of volunteer regrowth. There have been a lot of conversations between soil health and weed control.

Canola harvest is 80 percent complete in the area. Most of the southern area of the region has completed canola harvest, but some of the northern region has 20 percent of its canola to harvest. Later canola has been shown to handle some of the earlier winds better, since it was not as brittle during those weather events.

Soybean harvest has started and is off to a good start in the area. Yields have been reported from 20 to 40 bushels in the area. Soil types are really showing up in fields as well, with areas that were able to catch a few more rains. Mud is still an issue in some areas, with some farmers struggling with getting their fields harvested. Ruts will be an issue in the spring if there is no fieldwork done in the fields.

Grain corn is drying down in fields now. There has not been any corn harvest yet in the area, besides silage being chopped. Most of the corn being chopped in the area was grown for silage, unlike in other areas of the state. There are some lodging areas and a small concern about crown rot due to the wet soils. Yields are expected to be around average.

Sunflowers are progressing, with heads turning yellow. Some reports of desiccation are starting in Ward County, while other counties are still a ways from desiccating. Yield expectations are average to slightly above average. Some lodging has been reported around the area. Most of the area is still a little ways off before the sunflower harvest begins.

We had our first widespread frost on October 2nd. NDAWN stations in the area reported lows around 28 degrees. This frost will hasten dry down on some of our later crops, but should not affect yield at this time in most fields.

[Brenden Klebe](#)

Bottineau County Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent

NORTHEAST ND

Harvest activity continued at full speed across the region. Wheat harvest was nearly complete, with some fields still being finished. Canola harvest was also progressing, while dry beans, sunflowers, and soybeans were being harvested in some areas.

Soybean yields varied considerably, with reported yields ranging from approximately 20 to 50 bushels per acre (Figure 1). Some areas reported yields in the 35–40-bushel range.

Moisture damage to dry beans was reported from some fields in Benson County due to untimely rains.

Canola yields were disappointing across the region. Some farmers noted that the yields were reduced by



Figure 1: Testing soybean seeds for maturity and moisture content
Photo: Elizabeth Auka, ANR Extension Agent, Rolette County

an estimated 700 pounds per acre due to weather-related damage, although specific yield figures were not widely available.

Corn is showing promising yield potential, with some fields projected to reach approximately 200 bushels per acre. Sunflowers are generally progressing well, though there were concerns about potential white mold and blackbird issues.

Wheat harvest was largely complete, but quality concerns were reported due to sprouting, molding, and other weather-related issues (Figure 2).

Overall, harvest was progressing steadily, with significant variability in crop yields and quality due to localized weather and moisture conditions.



Figure 2: Sprouting in spring wheat
Photo: Elizabeth Auka, ANR Extension Agent, Rolette County

[Anitha Chirumamilla](#)

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Langdon Research Extension Center

NORTHWEST ND

In the past 14 days (September 22nd to October 5th) rainfall across Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams County ranged from 0.04 inch in southeast Divide County to 1.77 inches in the southern 1/3 of Mountrail County. Most of the northwest region received less than 0.5 inch of rainfall.

Drought conditions in the northwest part of North Dakota improved substantially again since the last newsletter. As of October 1st, all of Burke, Divide, 50% of Williams, and about the northern ¼ of Mountrail County no longer have drought conditions! Nearly 70% of Mountrail County and nearly the rest of Williams County were in D0 (abnormally dry) status. The very southwest area near the Missouri River in Mountrail County and the area along the Missouri River in Williams and McKenzie Counties were in D1 (moderate drought) status. About 50% of McKenzie County is still in D2 (severe drought) status. The southwest corner and into the central part of McKenzie County are still in D3 (extreme drought) status.

In the past 14 days, the departure from the normal maximum air temperature for the region has ranged from +2 degrees Fahrenheit, mostly in Burke County, to +7 degrees Fahrenheit in western Divide County! In the past 14 days, departures from the normal minimum air temperature for the regions have ranged from 0 degrees Fahrenheit at one NDAWN station in Williams County to +8 degrees Fahrenheit near the Missouri River in the center of McKenzie and Williams Counties.

The dryer-than-normal conditions over the past two weeks should have allowed the complete harvest of all cool-season crops in the region, except canola.

Most grain corn in the northern half of the region looks pretty good and is near physiological maturity (black layer), but not all fields are at that stage yet. Grain corn in the southern part of the region has begun to reach physiological maturity and is drying down for harvest. No grain corn harvest has started anywhere in the region yet.

The most soybeans harvested are in McKenzie and southern Mountrail and Williams Counties. Nearly 50% of the irrigated soybeans in McKenzie County have been harvested with yields ranging from 60 to 70 bushels/A!

Most dry bean fields have been harvested in the southern part of the region.

Sunflowers are still looking pretty good in most of the region, with sunflowers farther south in the region nearing harvest, while sunflowers in the north are starting to show a few brown bracts. No sunflower harvest has started anywhere yet in the region.

[Jeff Stachler](#)

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
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SOUTH-CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ND

Rainfall for all NDAWN stations in SC and SE ND Counties over the past two weeks (September 22nd to October 5th) ranged from 0.37 inch near Livona and Wahpeton to 6.2 inches near Courtney! Nearly all NDAWN stations south of a diagonal line starting in northeast Traill, heading southwest and covering all of Steele and Barnes Counties, much of Cass, Foster, and Griggs Counties and continuing towards Neudorf NDAWN station received greater than 3 inches of rainfall. Eddy, Sheridan, and Wells Counties received between 1.34 and 3.0 inches of rainfall during this period! Small parts of Burleigh, Emmons, Dickey and Sargent Counties and nearly all of Richland County received less than 0.5 inch of rainfall during the past two weeks!

The major issue across most of the region remains the drought. However, the drought has decreased in intensity over the last two weeks across most of the region due to heavy rainfall. As of October 1st, only the majority of Ransom and Richland Counties and the very southern part of Cass County, the northeast part of Sargent County and a small sliver of LaMoure County were in D3 (extreme) drought intensity. What a great change! The majority of Barnes, Burleigh, Cass, Griggs, Sargent and Steele Counties, about 40% of Sheridan and parts of Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Ransom, and Richland Counties remain in D2 (severe) drought intensity. Most of Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Kidder, LaMoure, and Stutsman Counties and parts

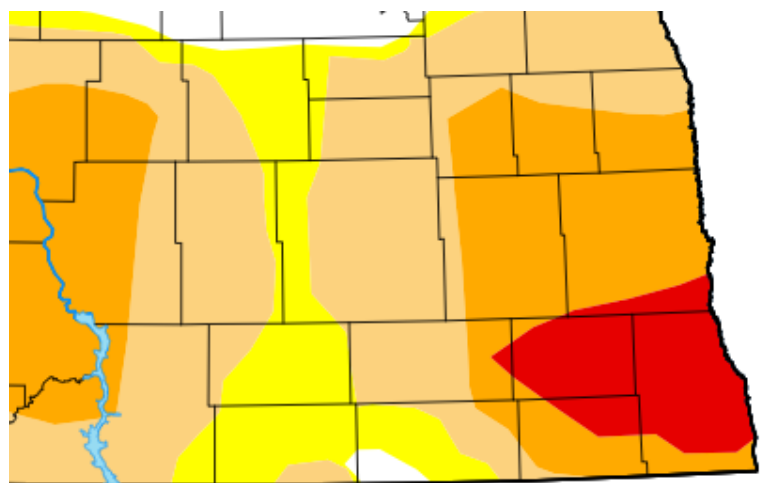


Figure 1: Drought Monitor map for SC and SE ND as of October 1st.

of Dickey, Logan, McIntosh, and Wells Counties were at D1 (moderate) drought intensity. Most of Dickey, Logan, McIntosh, and Wells Counties were at D0 (abnormally dry) drought intensity. The southwest corner of Dickey and a small southeast sliver of McIntosh Counties have no drought at this time. Figure 1 shows the Drought Monitor for the SC and SE region of North Dakota. Figure 2 shows how full the once-nearly-empty Griggs County slough featured in the last newsletter has become as of September 29th!



Figure 2: A Griggs County slough that was nearly empty of water two weeks ago compared to the amount of water on September 29th!

Crown rot and stalk rot continue to be observed across the region. The incidence and severity of crown rot and stalk rot within a field depend upon the maturity of the corn, the hybrid, and the amount of stress earlier in the season in the field. Harvestability concerns will occur in fields with a high frequency of lodging and ear drop (Figures 3 and 4). Prioritize harvest in fields with more than 10% of plants failing the push/pull test.



Figure 3: Corn ears dropping to the soil surface due to crown rot in a Foster County field.



Figure 4: Severe corn lodging in a Foster County Corn field.

The departure from the normal daily maximum air temperature over the past two weeks ranges from -1 degree Fahrenheit near Denhoff in Sheridan County to +5 degrees Fahrenheit near Gardner in Cass County, Livona in Emmons County, and Mayville in Traill County. The departure from the normal daily low air temperature ranged from 0 degrees Fahrenheit near McKenzie in Burleigh County to +8 degrees Fahrenheit at 4 NDAWN stations, starting in SW Wells County and extending eastward. The coldest morning yet this fall occurred on October 2nd. The Hope NDAWN station recorded 29 degrees Fahrenheit, and a farmer in the Sheyenne River Valley east of Cooperstown reported 26 degrees Fahrenheit. Most of the region has not seen a frost or freeze yet, which is way past normal.

With no killing freeze yet, most crops with a normal planting date have reached physiological maturity or are close enough now that a freeze, which is still not in the forecast, will no longer negatively impact crop yields.

With all the recent rains and warm temperatures, I have observed a lot of late-season emergence of Canada thistle and many winter-annual weed species. Please continue to delay the application of any soil residual herbicides. As of October 5th at the Cooperstown NDAWN station, the average bare-soil temperature for the day was 51 degrees Fahrenheit, and the maximum was 57 degrees Fahrenheit!

Corn condition declined over the past two weeks again due to crown rot and other stalk rots. Most corn in the region has reached physiological maturity (black layer). Corn grain harvest has begun in at least Cass, Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, McIntosh, Sargent, Sheridan, and Richland Counties within the region; however, few acres have been harvested in these counties, aside from Cass and Richland Counties. Few corn yields have been reported to me yet. In Emmons County, in some poor soils, corn yields were 80 to 90 bushels/A with corn moisture already down to 14%. I estimate that less than 3% of the corn has been harvested in the region yet. I did observe a few tar spot lesions in a Dickey County corn field within the last two weeks; however, the incidence was only one or two lesions per plant. The tar spot entered the field even later than last year, meaning no yield loss should occur again this year.

Soybean condition held steady to slightly decline over the past two weeks due to various late-season diseases. Figure 5 shows the presence of anthracnose on soybeans. Soybean harvest has started in all counties of the region. Approximately 50% or more of soybean acreage has already been harvested, at least south of Highway 200. Soybean yields in the region range from 3 bushels/A in a Logan County field that



Figure 5: Anthracnose on soybean pods in Nelson County.

received hail to about 55 bushels/A, at least in Griggs County. Some other areas of the region have likely seen soybean yields of 55+ bushels/A, but not many. Soybean yield across the region likely will be around 34 bushels per acre. Some Griggs County farmers are currently reporting only 25 bushels/A farm average, while others are reporting 30+ bushels/A farm average. As of Tuesday, soybean seed moisture was getting down to 10% for some farmers. Soybean seed size ranges from very small to normal size.

All canola has now been harvested in the region!

Over 75% of dry beans have been harvested across the region. Dry bean yields and quality have been across the board from very poor to good; most yields have been below a farm's APH, and quality has been average to good. Dry beans that have not yet been harvested are starting to shatter in the pods.

Sunflowers are still looking good across the entire region, at least from the road. I have observed a fair amount of lodging in a few fields. Sunflower harvest has begun in the SE part of the region, particularly in Cass County, where some were planted really early and where little rain fell. I have not heard of any sunflower yields yet since so little has been harvested. Many sunflower fields have been desiccated south of Highway 200.

With harvest in full swing, please prioritize safety before leaving the house and during work, and, if needed, seek mental health assistance.

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SOUTHWEST ND

For better or for worse, we have had a relatively boring week here in the southwest. Pasture lands are looking better after some much needed rain. Small grains are done, and volunteer regrowth on some fields is looking great. While we are still investigating the impacts of volunteers on soil moisture and health, it's not a bad idea to leave that growth in the ground if it's filling in well. The biomass, especially from volunteer grass crops (wheat, barley, etc.), provides protective soil cover, traps some snow over the winter, and ultimately does not require chemical termination, since it will winterkill. These volunteers may also help with weeds if they are competing well with the winter annuals.



Lentil regrowth at the Dickinson REC



Volunteer canola at the Dickinson REC

Most of the corn in the region is still standing, with reports of about 20-29% moisture yet in the grains. Although we continue to have dry conditions in the southwesternmost regions, we are still waiting for that grain to dry out further before starting harvest. Some high-moisture corn has been harvested for feed, but most of it is yet to be combined.

Sunflowers and soybeans are still mostly standing in the region as well. An estimated 20% of beans, flowers, and corn have been harvested so far, and most of the sunflowers being harvested were desiccated first. While we've had some warmer days, the overall drop in temperatures will slow the drying of the crops we're waiting on in the fields. There continues to be a lot of variation in how crops look, with some fields still quite green and others fully ready to combine. There is some concern about the soybean harvest in the southwest due to heavy kochia in those fields.

Winter wheat and rye have been going in, but we are mostly wrapping up the growing season in the next few weeks. If you want to plant a late-season cover crop, those will need to be drilled in as soon as possible. Cover crops planted for federal programs needed to be in by October 1st, but there is leeway to plant until October 10th with written approval from your local NRCS office.

Happy harvest season, everyone! Hoping the weather agrees with all of us for our upcoming management plans!



Mature corn in the field is still a little too wet for harvest. This cob has some poor pollination on the upper kernels.

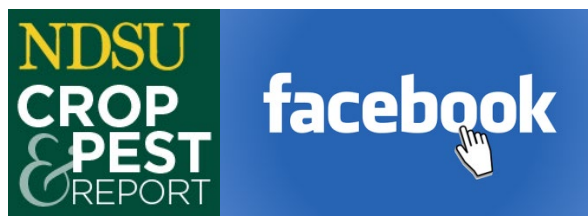
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