



JULY 2010

So far this season sunflower **rust has not become a threat to the crop**. Despite early sightings of rust in northwestern North Dakota, weather conditions have not allowed it to reproduce as quickly. Rust can reproduce in as little as 7 days, so **scouting your fields is still needed** to ensure rust stays in check. When you are scouting, you should be checking for head damaging insects as well. If moderate levels of rust are present, consider tank mixing a fungicide with insecticide to provide a level of control for both in the same application. Products labeled for rust control include Headline, Quadris and Folicure.

Adult banded sunflower moths are emerging and need to be monitored closely. Banded moth is best controlled by spraying just prior to bloom. It is very **important to protect the quality of your sunflowers**. Your grower contract only allows a level of 1.5 percent insect damage before significant discounts start to apply. Remember to spray your ditches where possible as the adult banded moths move into the field from the field margins. **Moth maps from the sunflower insect trap network** are posted on the [National Sunflower Association website](#) (see "Moth Maps").

The **best method to prevent damage** from banded sunflower moth, lygus, and red seed weevil is a **two spray program**. The first insecticide application should be at bud stage when the first ray petals appear in the center of the bud just prior to the bud opening. This will occur soon, probably within the next several days in the fields planted in early May. The second insecticide application should occur 5-7 days later to provide protection for the remaining bloom period. **Early protection is crucial** and more effective than delayed spraying. NDSU Entomologists have suggested two treatments may be needed to sufficiently protect confection sunflower heads from insect feeding. The National Sunflower Association has [pictures of all these insects](#) under the sunflower grower section at www.sunflowernsa.com.

Two insecticide products that have worked well in the past are **Asana XL** and **Warrior**. Cobalt is also receiving some attention. **Both products have the same respective rate** for banded sunflower moth and red seed weevil. Asana XL and Warrior are both restricted use pesticides and you should always read and follow the labels. For additional labeled insecticides, consult the **Field Crop Insect Management Guide for 2010** here: www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm

This insecticide program is designed to prevent both an insect from laying eggs and the resulting larval stage from doing damage to the kernel inside the shell. **Do not be late on your spraying program!** An **application that is too late will be ineffective** and cost you, the producer, more money in the long run than a timely spraying program. As always, remember to read and follow all label instructions.

Headline® fungicide is currently being promoted by BASF for application on several crops, including sunflowers, for **disease control of most of the leaf diseases** which occur on sunflowers. In addition, limited testing has indicated some additional benefits to the use of Headline® when applied at the proper time. BASF indicates that Headline® fungicide promotes plant growth efficiency, disease control and increased tolerance to stress.

Limited trials have shown **yield increases of up to 10 percent** in some cases. Seed size may also be enhanced. The benefits noted more commonly occur in environments where the plants are under stress. **Stress environments** can include drought, excess moisture, disease, frost and others.

For additional information contact your local agronomist, aerial applicator or ourselves at CHS Sunflower.

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