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## JULY 2008

### Time to start summer spraying

Banded sunflower moth adults are now present in many areas of the production region. Monitoring in southern Manitoba revealed high numbers of adults being captured in pheromone traps. Scouts are also reporting banded moths in production fields across the sunflower production region. Banded moth is best controlled by spraying just prior to bloom to protect the quality of your sunflowers. Your grower contract only allows a level of 2 percent insect damage before significant discounts begin to apply. With sunflower prices in the \$30-\$40 range, the economic thresholds fall to very low levels. One adult per 100 plants is a reasonable threshold. **At this level, all confection sunflower production will need to be sprayed!** Remember to spray your ditches, where possible, as the adult banded moths move into the field from the field margins.

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 opening. This will occur soon 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 suggest 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](http://www.sunflowernsa.com).

Two insecticide products that have worked well in the past are Asana XL® and Warrior®. Cobalt® is also receiving some attention. Consult the label for application rates and please carefully follow all label directions. Both Asana XL and Warrior have the same respective rate for banded sunflower moth and red seed weevil. Both are also **restricted-use pesticides**. **Always read and follow the labels.**

For additional labeled insecticides, you can consult the Field Crop Insect Management Guide for 2007 at [www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm](http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/plantsci/pests/e1143w1.htm)

Your 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 would have.

### Notes on Headline® fungicide programs

Headline® fungicide is currently being promoted by BASF for application on several crops, including sunflowers, for disease control of most 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. In addition, seed size can also be enhanced. The benefits noted more commonly occur in environments where the plants are under stress, such as drought, excess moisture, disease and frost.

Headline® fungicide testing has been going on for several years on corn, soybeans and wheat, showing some excellent results. Sunflower testing has been more limited, but we believe, based on the results seen so far in the other crops as well as sunflowers, that further evaluation is pertinent. We would encourage you, as a grower, to “split” some fields by applying Headline® to half of the field and leaving the other half untreated.

Headline® is registered for application in the R1 to R3 growth stage, which is occurring now in some of our production areas. R1 to R2 stages are preferred. You can find more information on identifying growth stages at [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/default.asp?contentID=244](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/default.asp?contentID=244)

If you are interested in applying Headline® to your sunflowers and are unsure of the timing, contact us here at CHS Sunflower or your local agronomist. In addition, **if you chose to apply some Headline® on a “split” field trial type basis, please contact us** -- we would like to participate in evaluating your results.

### **Keep scouting fields for rust**

Sunflower rust continues to be a concern. Several growers in the north central and south central areas of the growing region are currently applying fungicide for rust in their fields. Most other areas seem to have either very low levels of rust or none at all up to this point in time. Rust, however, can reproduce in as little as seven days. Please scout your fields!

**Don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help you produce the best!**

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