

**MFGA Green Gold Report – June 4, 2020 – EASTERN**

2020 Reports for Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Date cover Eastern, Central and Western Manitoba.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
St.Pierre E	217	235	15	22
Beausjour	186	230	17	27
Ste.Anne	199	229	16	28
New Bothwell	210	229	16	27
Stony Mountain	216	217	19	29
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>

Growth on most of the alfalfa fields in the East continues to be slow given the warm weather that we are receiving. Alfalfa fields are starting to enter the early bud stage. Rainfall amounts over the past 2 weeks have been minimal and this may be slowing the alfalfa growth.

Since Monday the RFV of the alfalfa looks to be dropping at 5 pt/day. If this continues you might expect alfalfa in the area to hit 170 RFV on or about the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.



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CONTACT: John McGregor, MFGA Green Gold Coordinator, e: [john@mfga.net](mailto:john@mfga.net), t: [@mbforages](https://twitter.com/mbforages)



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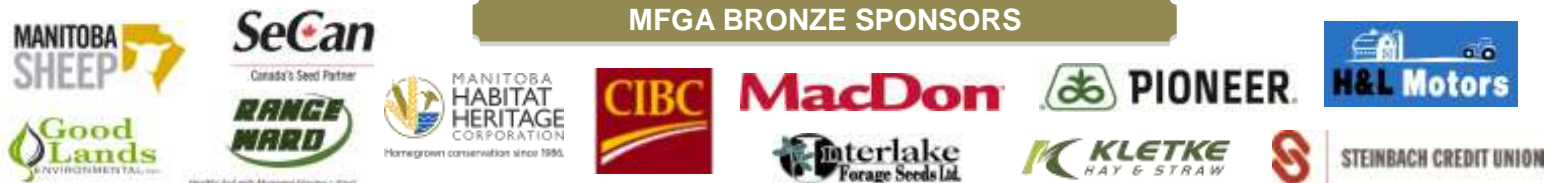
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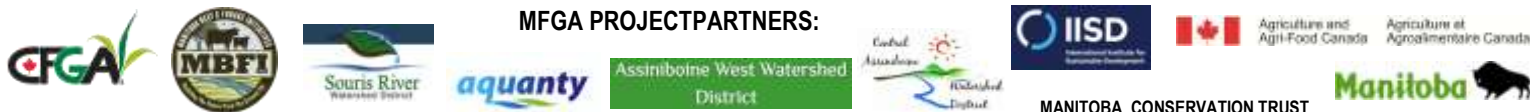
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## What I am Seeing

After the May 29<sup>th</sup> frost there was concern as to what damage it might cause to the alfalfa. In this photo you can see how the alfalfa is recovering as we have about an inch of new growth showing up on the upper part of the plant. The leaves hit by the frost are showing the damage and are drying up and will likely fall off before harvest. Looking at the analysis of the sample we see the CP has dropped considerably compared to other fields in the report.



The other thing that I noted was the beginning of feeding damage due to Alfalfa Weevil. This was noted in 2 of the fields sampled in the SE and although the damage was minimal it is something that you should be checking your fields for starting now, especially if you have had issues in the past.



## Scout for Alfalfa Weevils

This week I spotted what I suspect is alfalfa weevil damage to some plants in the area. We have accumulated enough degree days for alfalfa weevil larvae to be present. Although damage presently is minor, significant defoliation is possible, which impacts yield, quality and the health of the stand. Damage is typically seen in the first crop of alfalfa.

A threshold of about 230 GDD (base 9 degrees Celsius) will provide the best prediction for the peak of second instar larvae

Table 1. Predicted degree day accumulations for peak numbers of alfalfa weevils.

Stage or event	Degree days (Base 9°C)*	Weevil activity
Egg hatch	155-167	
Instar 1	176-206	Light leaf feeding
Instar 2	218-243	
Instar 3	260-280	Major leaf feeding
Instar 4	306-331	

\* Peak alfalfa weevil developmental times from Harcourt (1981) and Beauzay et al. (2013)



populations which is also the stage at which an economic threshold can be applied.

As of May 31<sup>st</sup> the map and table below show that at the 2 Manitoba sites that a significant number of weevil should be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> instar stage. As we are now 4 more hot days into June these percentages will be significantly higher

A treatment threshold of 40% tip feeding is suggested. This is not to advocate treating at 40% defoliation but rather when 40% of the stems have signs of weevil feeding. If you are over the suggested threshold consider a timely harvest especially if you are not putting additional stress on the stand. Timely cutting is still our best control option.

Location	% Eggs	% 1st Instar	% 2nd Instar
Brandon	14.6	37.5	49.8
Grande Prairie	100.0	2.1	0.0
Lethbridge	56.2	58.8	9.9
Saskatoon	14.5	52.4	40.9
Swift Current	24.0	64.0	29.6
Winnipeg	11.8	11.1	77.3

If an early harvest is not practical, consider treating fields with severe damage and re-scouting remaining fields at a later time. For those fields with heavy first crop weevil feeding (which are not treated) plan to check second crop regrowth for feeding. Larvae and/or adults can survive harvest and cause significant damage to regrowth.