

XX ROOT MAGGOT MONITORING TRIAL - *B. NAPUS*

Objective: Compare and rate root maggot damage on varieties entered in the variety trial.

Background: Root maggots have been identified as a major pest of *B. rapa* in the parkland area of Alberta. Work at the University of Alberta and the Alberta Environmental Centre has indicated that root maggots can reduce canola yield by up to 50%. Susceptibility to root maggot differs between *B. rapa* and *B. napus* types. However, there may also be different degrees of root maggot resistance within each species.

Methodology: The variety and systems comparison trial was used in the root maggot monitoring trial. Thirty representative plants were collected from each plot within two days of swathing. Root maggot ratings were made immediately after collection.

Ratings:

0 - no damage

1 - feeding channels <10% root surface area

2 - feeding channels 11 - 25%

3 - feeding channels 25 - 50%

4 - feeding channels 51 - 75%

5 - feeding channels 76 - 100% or root is completely severed

Western Canadian Summary:

Root maggot numbers were very low across all regions of western Canada. Root maggot infestations are highly dependent on weather during early stages of plant development. Producers and industry professionals continuously need to keep updated of the potential for root maggot damage in all canola growing regions of western Canada. High-risk areas such as southern Manitoba and the Peace River regions should be scouted on regular intervals over the summer in order to use proactive cultural practices to reduce crop damage.