



## INSECT OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Seeding time is quickly approaching, so it seems like a good time to review some of the insect issues we may be dealing with in 2025. Let's take a look at what we can expect from some of the major pests in our area this coming year.

### Bertha Army Worms

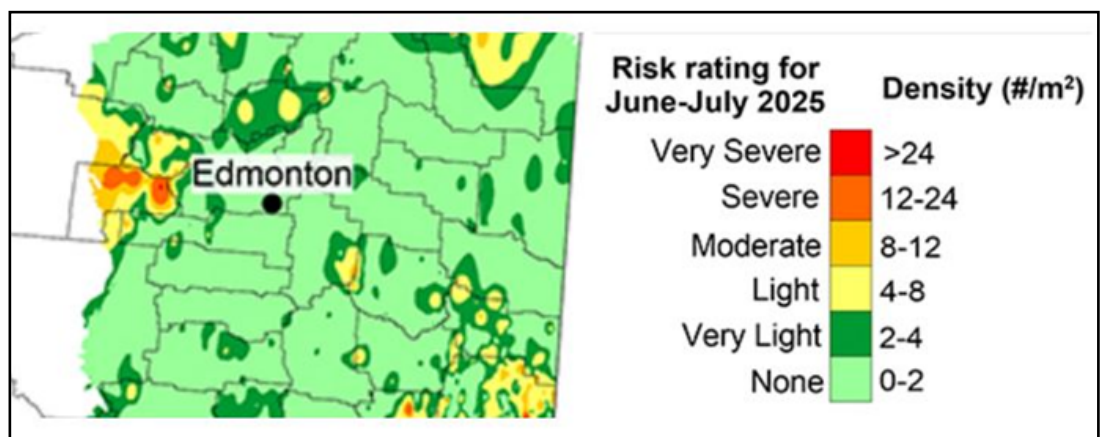
Predicting Bertha Army Worm outbreaks based on 2024 populations is tough, as overwintering conditions and parasitism rate greatly impacts the population, so the map below is where we



ended in 2024, not a risk map for 2025. But based on that, don't expect any major issues with this pest. That doesn't mean there won't be localized outbreaks though, so remember it is always important to scout in season.

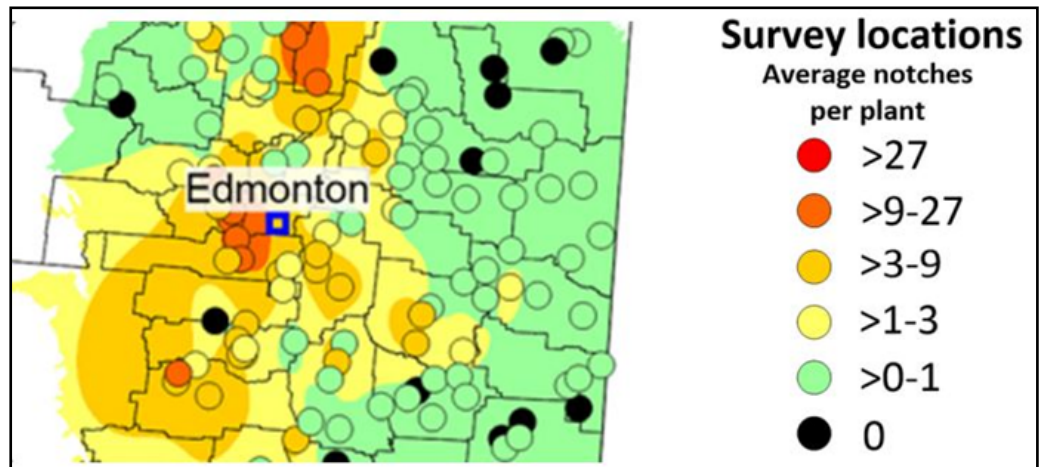
### Grasshoppers

While there are pockets of light to very light infestations expected in some areas, for most of East Central Alberta, grasshopper risk is expected to be low in 2025



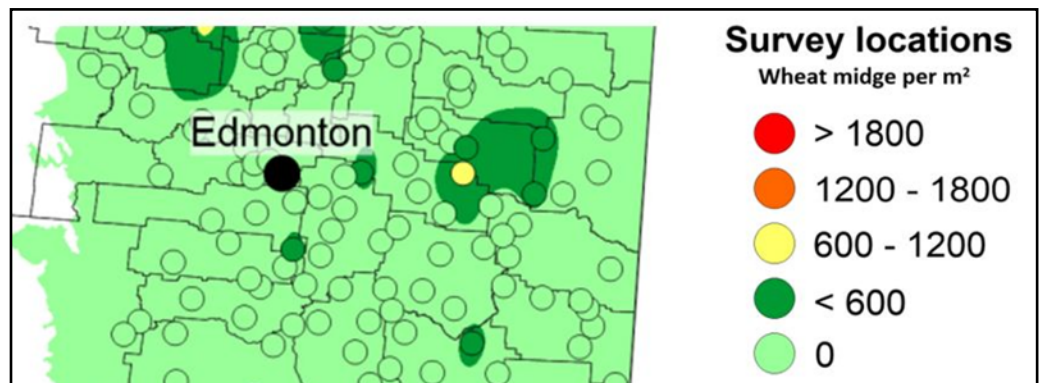
## Pea Leaf Weevils

As with Bertha Army Worms, the map for Pea Leaf Weevils is not a forecast, just an indication of where the pest was found in 2024. The survey counts the notches in the pea leaves, which indicates adult activity, but the damage is done by the larvae on the nodules. If you are in an area that had lots of pea leaf weevil activity in 2024, you may want to look into an insecticidal seed treatment. A foliar application to kill the adults does nothing to help out the crop as the damage adults do to the leaves is only transitory, and by the time you notice them, they have already laid their eggs.



## Wheat Midge

The final map I will share is the 2024 Wheat Midge Survey. While not a forecast tool, the survey gives a very accurate picture of the 2024 season. It is done post-harvest, screening soil samples to count the viable larval cocoons, and gives a very accurate picture of the population density. While there are some pockets of higher populations to the north of Flagstaff, the overall picture shows lower levels to end 2024 than we saw in 2023.



*The big picture may look reasonably encouraging for Bertha Army Worms, Grasshoppers, Pea Leaf Weevils, and Wheat Midge, but the big picture is not necessarily what you will see in your fields. Remember that scouting is a season long job that can allow you to deal with issues quickly, before they cause large problems. Also remember that Alberta Ag runs in season live maps that monitor some of the pests most likely to cause problems, such as cutworms, Diamondback moths, Bertha Army Worms, and Wheat Midge. As the growing season moves along, make sure to check in with the Alberta Pest Monitoring Network periodically. It's a fast way to see what pests are active and where*

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