

SUGARBEET ROOT MAGGOT FORECAST FOR THE 2018 GROWING SEASON

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The 2018 sugarbeet root maggot (SBRM) forecast map for the Red River Valley is shown in the figure below. Areas at highest risk include rural Grand Forks, Merrifield, St. Thomas, and Thompson, ND, as well as East Grand Forks and Euclid, MN. Moderate risk is expected near Auburn, Bathgate, Buxton, and Reynolds, ND, and in the vicinity of Argyle and Climax, MN. Other areas that should be monitored closely this year include Glasston and Oakwood, ND, and Ada, Fisher, and Stephen, MN. The remainder of the area is at lower risk. Root maggot infestations are expected to be lower in 2018 than in the past few years. However, some fields will still be at high risk of damaging infestations this year. SBRM populations can increase rapidly from year to year. Proximity to previous-year beet fields where SBRM populations were high and/or control was unsatisfactory during the previous year increases risk. Sugarbeet fields near those where high fly activity occurred in 2017 should be closely monitored in 2018. Growers in high-risk areas should use an aggressive form of at-plant insecticide treatment (i.e., granular insecticide) and a postemergence rescue insecticide (i.e., banded granules or peak-fly spray). Those in moderate-risk areas using insecticidal seed treatments for at-plant protection should monitor fly activity levels in their area, and be ready to apply additive protection if needed. All growers in known SBRM areas should pay close attention to fly activity levels in late-May through June to decide if postemergence treatment is needed. NDSU Entomology will continue to inform growers regarding SBRM activity levels and hot spots each year through radio reports, the NDSU "Crop & Pest Report", and notification of sugar cooperative agricultural staff when appropriate. Root maggot fly count information for the current season and from previous years can be viewed at: <http://www.ndsu.edu/entomology/people/faculty/boetel/flycounts/>.

