Nuisance Pests Saskatchewan

The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to actively monitoring and managing pests to reduce their impact on the Saskatchewan agricultural industry. The nuisance pest list aligns with the pest surveillance priorities of the ministry and includes new or emerging invasive species. This also allows the ministry to act in the case of a significant pest outbreak. Surveillance initiatives are conducted with the permission of producers across the province.

The composition of the nuisance pest list is based on scientific evidence, historical pest incidence data, and input from collaborators, producers, and stakeholders. Priority is given to pests that affect crop yields and quality, which potentially cause financial losses for producers.

The ministry reviews the nuisance pest list annually, considering changes in invasive species incidence and emerging pest threats. This ensures that the list remains relevant and adaptable to evolving pest pressures in Saskatchewan.

Through strategic surveillance, collaboration, and proactive pest management measures, the aim is to reduce the impact of nuisance pests and ensure the resilience and sustainability of the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

The Nuisance Pests for 2025 include:

Insects	Comments
Alfalfa Looper	• Generalist pest of several crop species.
Alfalfa Plant Bug	• Of concern in pulse crops, primarily alfalfa for seed production.
Alfalfa Weevil	• Damaging pest in alfalfa.
Amauromyza karli	• Common pest of quinoa.
Apple Curculio	• Serious pest of fruit, potential resistance demonstrated.
Apple Maggot	• Common pest of pome fruits.
Aster Leafhopper	• Generalist pest of several crop species, vector for aster yellows.
Barley Thrips	• Significant pest of barley. Can be damaging in other cereal crops.

Bertha Armyworm	• Native and very damaging when it occurs in large numbers. Can be a devastating pest of canola, brassica vegetables and quinoa.
Birdcherry-Oat Aphid	• Occasionally serious pest of cereals.
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	• Invasive pest with very large host range.
Cabbage Looper	• Occasionally serious pest of canola and Brassica vegetable.
Cabbage Seedpod Weevil	• Serious and invasive pest of canola and *Brassica* spp. mustard.
Cereal Leaf Beetle	• Occasionally serious pest of cereals.
Cherry Fruit Fly • western cherry fruit fly • black cherry fruit fly	• Pests of stone fruits like sour cherry.
Clover Cutworm	• Generalist pest of several crop species.
Colorado Potato Beetle	• Pest of potatoes.
Cosmobaris scolopacea	• Pest of quinoa.
***Delia spp*. Root Maggot**	• Serious pest of Brassica vegetables. Historically important pest of canola.
Diamondback Moth	• Migratory insect. Can be a devastating pest of canola and brassica vegetables.
English Grain Aphid	• Occasionally serious pest of cereals.
European Corn Borer	• Pest primarily of corn. Potatoes, quinoa and other crops can be affected.
Field Cricket	• Occasional pest of several crops.
Glassy Cutworm	• Pest of grasses, primarily in Northern regions.
Goosefoot Groundling Moth	• Pest of quinoa.

Grasshopper(s)	• Multiple species with different host preferences that can be significant pests of multiple crops and rangeland.
Hawthorn Lace Bug	• Important pest of Saskatoon berry.
Hessian Fly	• Pest of cereals.
Japanese Beetle	• Invasive pest, regulated in Canada. Quarantine pest in BC (CFIA).
Lily Leaf Beetle	• Invasive pest of lilies.
Lygus spp.	• Generalist pests of many crops.
Pale Western Cutworm	• Generalist pest of seedling crops.
Pea Aphid	• Significant pest of pulse crops.
Pea Leaf Weevil	• An invasive and important pest of pea and faba bean crops.
Pemphigus spp. **Aphid**	• Attack quinoa roots.
Peritrechus convivus	• Infrequent but serious pest of several crops.
Phyllotreta spp. **Flea Beetle**	• Significant and frequent pests of canola and mustard.
Pollen Beetle	• Not yet detected in Saskatchewan. Serious pest of canola and mustard.
Redbacked Cutworm	• Generalist pest of seedling crops.
Spotted Lanternfly	• Important pest of fruit crops and ornamental tree species.
Spotted Wing Drosophila	• Important invasive pest of fruit crops.
Strawberry Blossom Weevil	• Invasive. Not yet detected in Saskatchewan. Pest of fruit crops.
Swede Midge	• Serious invasive pest of canola and mustard. Not yet reported in

	Saskatchewan but establishment could be very damaging to production.
True Armyworm	• Important pest of cereals and perennial grass crops.
Two spotted Spider Mite	• Generalist pest of greenhouse and ornamental crops.
Wheat Midge	• Serious pest of wheat.
Western Flower Thrip	• Generalist pest of greenhouse, ornamental and rarely field crops.
Wheat Stem Sawfly	• Serious pest of wheat.
Wireworm • *Selatosomus destructor* • *Hypnoides bicolor*	• Pests of root vegetables and field crops.

Crop Diseases	Comments
Canola Diseases Canola diseases include but are not limited to: • sclerotinia stem rot; • blackleg; • aster yellows; • alternaria black spot; • foot rot; • clubroot; • fusarium wilt; • powdery mildew; • verticillium stripe; • white rust; and, • downy mildew.	• Canola, a high-value crop for the province, is affected by several important diseases. Some of these diseases can significantly reduce yields, and some diseases like blackleg can also negatively impact market access.
Wheat, Barley and Oat Diseases Cereal diseases include but are not limited to: • leaf disease such as tan spot, septoria leaf spot complex, net blotch, spot blotch, scald, rusts, powdery mildew,	• Cereal diseases can have an economic impact by reducing the yield of cereal crops. Disease such as fusarium head blight (FHB) and ergot can cause significant yield losses, reduce grain quality, and lead to harmful mycotoxin

bacterial blights, aster yellows and viruses; • smuts, bunts, ergots, and • fusarium head blight.	contamination, resulting in substantial economic impacts for producers and the industry.
Dry Bean Diseases Dry bean diseases include but are not limited to: • root rot; • common bacterial blight; • bacterial brown spot; • halo blight; • sclerotinia stem rot (white mould); • anthracnose; and • viral diseases.	• Diseases such as bacterial blights in dry bean may impact the adoption of dry bean in crop rotation and hinder the expansion of dry bean production particularly under irrigation. A deeper understanding of diseases affecting dry beans in the province is essential to inform and improve disease management decisions in dry bean fields.
Faba Bean Diseases Faba bean diseases include but are not limited to: • root rot; and, • foliar diseases such as chocolate spot, stemphylium blight, ascochyta blight and alternaria leaf spot.	• Faba bean is a crop well suited for growth in the cooler and moister areas of the Prairies. There are numerous root and foliar diseases affecting faba bean crops on prairies that are not well diagnosed and understood yet.
Field Pea Diseases Field pea diseases include but are not limited to: • root rot; • sclerotinia stem rot (white mould); • downy mildew; • mycosphaerella/ascochyta blight; • bacterial blight; and, • viral diseases.	• These diseases if not managed properly can be yield robbers in field peas. Bacterial blight in peas was raised as a potential trade concern in 2018.
Flax Diseases The flax diseases include but are not limited to: • pasmo; • alternaria blight; • aster yellows; • fusarium wilt; • powdery mildew; and, • rust.	• Important diseases of flax to be monitored. Pasmo is the most prevalent disease of flax in the province.

Lentil Diseases Lentil diseases include but are not limited to: • root rot; • anthracnose; • ascochyta blight; • sclerotinia stem rot (white mold) • botrytis (gray mold); and, • stemphylium blight.	• Diseases can be a major limiting actor to lentil production in the province. Anthracnose and root rot are the most prevalent diseases of lentil crops.
Soybean Diseases Soybean diseases include but are not limited to: • bacterial blight; • septoria brown spot; • downy mildew; • white mould; • pod/stem blight; • anthracnose; • frogeye leaf spot; • phytophthora root rot; • rust; and, • charcoal rot.	• Important diseases of soybeans that growers need to manage especially in southeast Saskatchewan. Septoria brown spot and bacterial blight are the most prevalent diseases of soybeans in the province.
Chickpea Diseases • ascochyta blight; • verticillium wilt; • emerging health issue; and, • root rot.	• Important emerging and new diseases in chickpeas. Ascochyta and root rot are the main infectious diseases. In recent years there has been a health issue in chickpea crops which is still under investigation.
Fruit Diseases • anthracnose (strawberry); • entomosporium leaf and berry spot (Saskatoon berry); • fire blight (pome fruit); • powdery mildew (haskap); and, • brown rot (stone fruit).	• Important fruit diseases.
Vegetable Diseases • *Fusarium* spp. (garlic).	• There is a significant issue with *Fusarium* basal rot in garlic in Saskatchewan in recent years with samples submitted to

	the Crop Protection Laboratory for further investigation.
Plant Pathogenic Nematodes	• Host specificity varies amongst species. Some crops of interest to study/monitor for the impact of nematodes in the province include chickpea, soybean, and potatoes.

Other	Comments
Gophers • Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) • Franklin's ground squirrel • Thirteen lined ground squirrel • Northern pocket gopher	• All are native species. • Large populations of RGS can cause significant damage to pasture, range and a variety of crops. • The other species are occasionally damaging.