

2026 Nuisance Pests Saskatchewan

The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to actively monitoring and managing pests to reduce their impact on the Saskatchewan agriculture 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 may cause financial losses for producers.

The ministry reviews the nuisance pest list annually, considering changes in invasive species incidences 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 2026 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.
<i>Amauromyza karli</i>	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 plant disease.
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.
Black vine weevil*	Very large host range (100 plant species). Pest of greenhouses, nurseries, and fruit crops.
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug*	Invasive pest with very large host range.
Cabbage Looper	Occasionally serious pest of canola and brassica vegetables.
Cabbage Seedpod Weevil	Serious and invasive pest of canola and Brassica species 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.

Insects	Comments
Clover Cutworm	Generalist pest of several crop species.
Colorado Potato Beetle	Pest of potatoes.
<i>Cosmobaris scolopacea</i>	Pest of quinoa.
<i>Delia spp. Root Maggot</i>	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 British Columbia (CFIA).
Lily Leaf Beetle	Invasive pest of lilies.
<i>Lygus spp.</i>	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.

Insects	Comments
<i>Pemphigus spp. Aphid</i>	Attack quinoa roots.
<i>Peritrechus convivus</i>	Infrequent but serious pest of several crops.
<i>Phyllotreta spp. Flea Beetle</i>	Significant and frequent pests of canola and mustard.
Pollen Beetle	Not yet detected in Saskatchewan. Serious pest of canola and mustard.
Raspberry fruit worm*	Pest of raspberry.
Redbacked Cutworm	Generalist pest of seedling crops.
Saskatoon bud moth*	Pest of saskatoon berry.
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, fruit, and ornamental crops.
Wheat Midge	Serious pest of wheat.
Western Flower Thrip	Generalist pest of greenhouse, ornamental, fruit and rarely field crops.
Wheat Stem Sawfly	Serious pest of wheat.
Wireworm • <i>Selatosomus destructor</i> • <i>Hypnoides bicolor</i>	Pests of root vegetables and field crops.
Woolly Elm Aphid*	Pest of young saskatoon berry roots.

***Pest added in 2026**

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, bacterial blights, aster yellows and viruses; • smuts, bunts, ergots, and • fusarium head blight (FHB).	Cereal diseases can have an economic impact by reducing the yield of cereal crops. Diseases such as FHB and ergot can cause significant yield losses, reduce grain quality and lead to harmful mycotoxin 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.

Crop Diseases	Comments
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 wetter areas of the Prairies. There are numerous root and foliar diseases affecting faba bean crops on the 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. Pasma is the most prevalent disease of flax in Saskatchewan.
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 factor to lentil production in the province. Anthracnose and root rot are the most prevalent diseases of lentil crops.

Crop Diseases	Comments
Soybean Diseases Soybean diseases include but are not limited to: • bacterial blight; • septoria brown spot; • downy mildew; • white mould; • pod/stem blight; • anthracnose; • frog-eye 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 Saskatchewan.
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) • anthracnose (raspberry)* • botrytis sp. many different fruit crops* • entomosporium leaf and berry spot (saskatoon berry); • Saskatoon Juniper rust (saskatoon berry)* • fire blight (pome fruit, saskatoon berry, raspberry); • powdery mildew (haskap); and, • brown rot (stone fruit). • cankers (various species) on apple* • black knot on chokecherry* • neopestalotiopsis (Neo-P) strawberry (not detected in Saskatchewan yet)*	Important fruit diseases.

Crop Diseases	Comments
Vegetable Diseases • <i>Fusarium spp. (garlic).</i>	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.

***Pest added in 2026**

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.