

Flea Beetle Activity – May 18, 2010



Flea beetle damage is most severe the first two weeks after canola seedling emergence. At the 3 to 4 leaf stage the plants can generally outgrow the feeding damage.

Seed treatments provide protection for 3-4 weeks from time of planting, so in some cases control may have run out before canola is past the critical 3 to 4- leaf stage.

The economic threshold for flea beetle feeding on canola is 25% damage (see photo).

If heavy flea beetle damage nears threshold levels and high numbers of flea beetles are found, apply foliar sprays as soon as possible, since flea beetles can cause substantial damage quickly in warm, sunny weather.

Before spraying for weeds, check fields for flea beetle activity, so flea beetle control can be applied at the same time.



25% flea beetle damage

When scouting fields for flea beetle damage, it is important to understand that flea beetles generally invade canola fields from the field edges. Flea beetle damage and the number of flea beetles may be higher at the field edge than farther into the field. If this appears to be the situation, a foliar spray around the field edge may provide sufficient protection.

Apply sprays when it is sunny and warm, and the beetles are active and exposed on plants and soil.