

Hello,

I am Troy Prosofsky, agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada, and I'm looking for anyone willing to collect cutworms for research. Cutworms are an increasing threat to canola and other crops, and growers will benefit from knowing more about this native pest. This is your chance to assist in developing cutworm best management practices- and maybe win an iPad!

Through the Canola Agronomic Research Program (CARP), which is funded by the provincial canola grower organizations, a 3-year scientific cutworm research study has been approved and is starting this spring. Research results are intended to give crop consultants, agronomists and growers better decision making tools and management practices for cutworms.

At least seven cutworms species can cause economic damage to Western Canadian crops. These species are dingy, army, redbacked, glassy, darksided, pale western and bertha armyworm. We often generalize when it comes to cutworms and cutworm management recommendations, but some of these species behave in quite different ways and generalizations can result in crop losses or revenge spraying. Losses can approach 100% during outbreaks and be devastating for individual farmers. Bertha armyworm is probably the best known of the cutworm species, but dingy, pale western, redbacked and others can wipe out large patches of field in the spring — often before a grower notices. Even when growers do notice the missing plants, other issues are typically blamed such as weather, disease, herbicide carryover or machinery issues. We have a lot to learn about cutworms.

Here's where you come in. Our current challenge is sourcing and collecting cutworms. For every field sample captured, your name will be entered into a draw to be awarded this fall. First prize is a tablet (like an iPad or Android equivalent) of your choosing. **Here's is what to do:**

In Alberta, option 1 is to call or email one of the three names below and they will come out and collect. Or, if you need to spray right away, option 2 is to collect samples yourself using the steps below.

In Manitoba and Saskatchewan: Option 2 only applies — growers will collect and submit samples themselves in all cases. SK & MB specimens need to be delivered to the drop location or mailed priority post.

Steps for collecting cutworms:

- Larvae (the worm) should be handled as little as possible and always gently.
- Larvae require feeding material both for humidity and food. Feeding material could be a host plant, a piece of root crown, or a prepared media.
- **Do NOT include** soil with the cutworm specimen – it damages the cutworm (abrasion, cuts), speeds desiccation, and introduces disease.
- Place one larva plus feeding material into a clean container. (I.e. sour cream container)
- Alternatively, small paper bags can be used for collection and shipping cutworms, PROVIDED the paper bag is protected from compression (e.g., place paper bag sample into box for shipping). Paper bags will work well for those who drop off samples directly with the researcher.

- **Every larva must have collection data, include the following:** (1) collection date, (2) collector's name, (3) collector's email or phone number (for the draw!), (4) nearest town, (5) GPS or legal land description, if known, (6) specimen description (species, if known), (7) name of host plant the worm was near or feeding on, and (8) previous crop.

Label example:

Collection date:	10 May 2011
Collector name:	Jennifer OTANI
Email or contact information:	555-708-1234
Nearest town:	Beaverlodge AB
GPS or Legal Land Location:	N°55.19520° W119.39413°
Specimen description:	Unknown cutworm
Host plant:	Canola cv. 45H21
Previous crop:	Canola

- **Remember to send lots of larva — and get them in fast so we can rear them!**
- More detailed collection protocols are available here:
http://www.westernforum.org/Documents/IPMN%20Protocols/2011_Cutworm%20Protocol_May31b.pdf

Shipping cutworms:

- Once the samples are collected and put into containers, ship them priority post to the researcher nearest you. Here are the contacts:

In Alberta: Call the Alberta contacts first to see if they can come out and collect. If not, then follow the steps for collecting and shipping.

Northern Alberta and B.C.

Attn: Jennifer OTANI
Jennifer.Otani@AGR.GC.CA
 #1 Research Station Road
 Beaverlodge Research Farm
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 Beaverlodge AB T0H 0C0
 Tel. 780-354-5132

Central Alberta

Attn: Jim BROATCH or Patty REID
Patty.Reid@AGR.GC.CA
 Lacombe Research Centre
 6000 C & E Trail
 Lacombe, AB T4L 1W1
 Tel. 403-396-2535

Southern Alberta

Attn: Jeremy HUMMEL
jyhmm1@gmail.com
 4101 22 Ave S
 Lethbridge, AB T1K 4Y3
 Tel. 403-320-3202 x534

In Saskatchewan:

Drop samples off or send priority mail to:

Attn: Scott Hartley
Cutworm survey
Crop Protection Lab
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
346 MacDonald St.
Regina, SK S4N 6P6
Tel. 306-787-8130

In Manitoba:

Drop samples off or send priority mail to:

Attn: Barb Sharonowski
University of Manitoba
Dept. of Entomology
12 Dafoe Road
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Tel. 204-474-7485

Below are links for more information on cutworms or contact your provincial office:

In Alberta: Ag-info Center: 310-FARM (3276)

In Saskatchewan: Scott Hartley, (306) 787-4669

In Manitoba: John Gavloski, (204) 745-5668

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/fad06s00.html>

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/inf4443](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/inf4443)

On behalf of the researchers, growers & all others involved- thanks for your help!

Troy Prosofsky

If you have collection questions please contact me:

403.332.1412

prosofskyt@canolacouncil.org

@ProsofskyCCC