Prairie Pest Monitoring Network Weekly Updates – August 5, 2014

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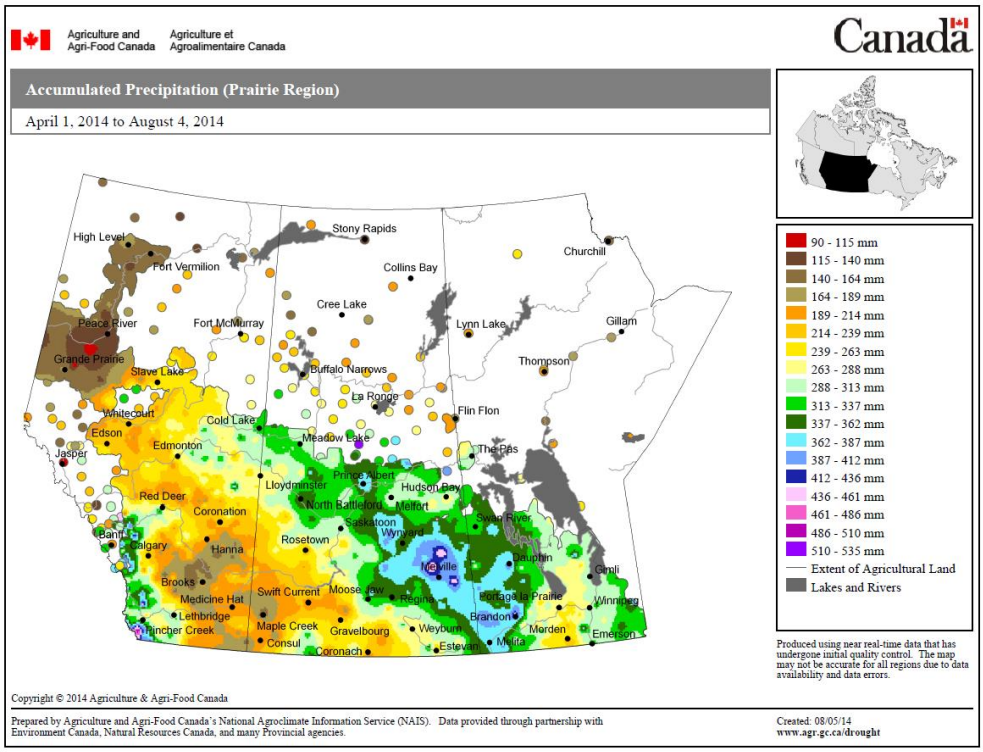
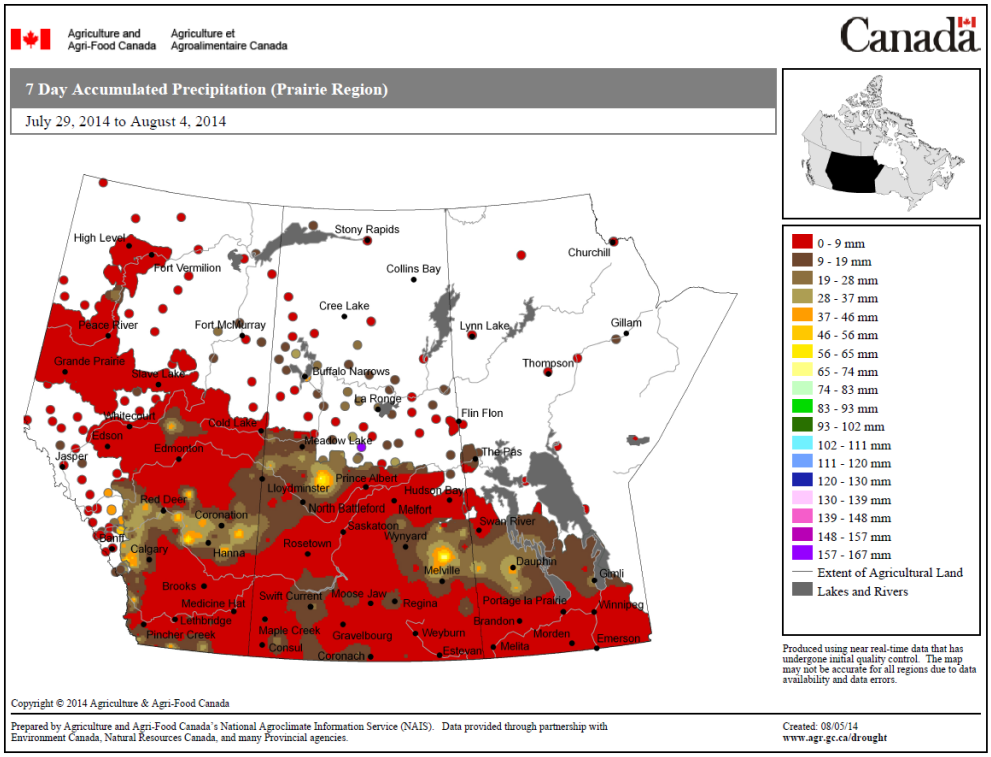
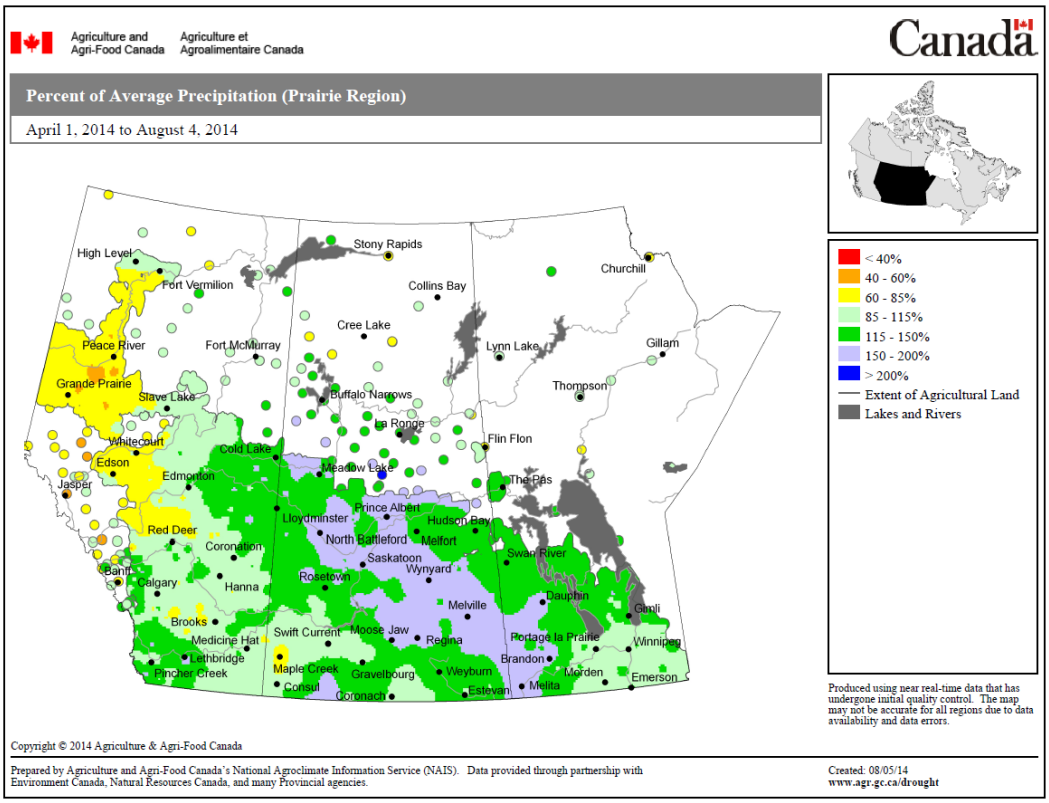
1. Weather synopsis – Below is the **Accumulated Precipitation for the Growing Season** (i.e., April 1-August 4, 2014):



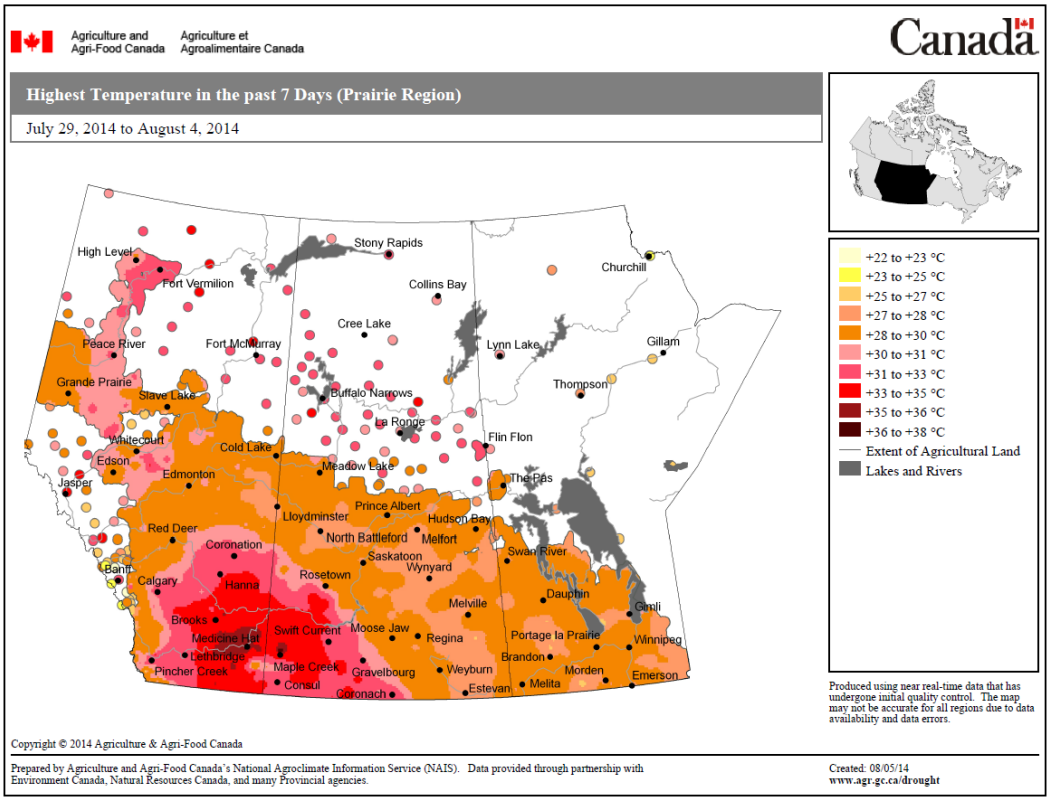
Below is the **Accumulated Precipitation the Past 7 Days** (i.e., July 29-August 4, 2014):



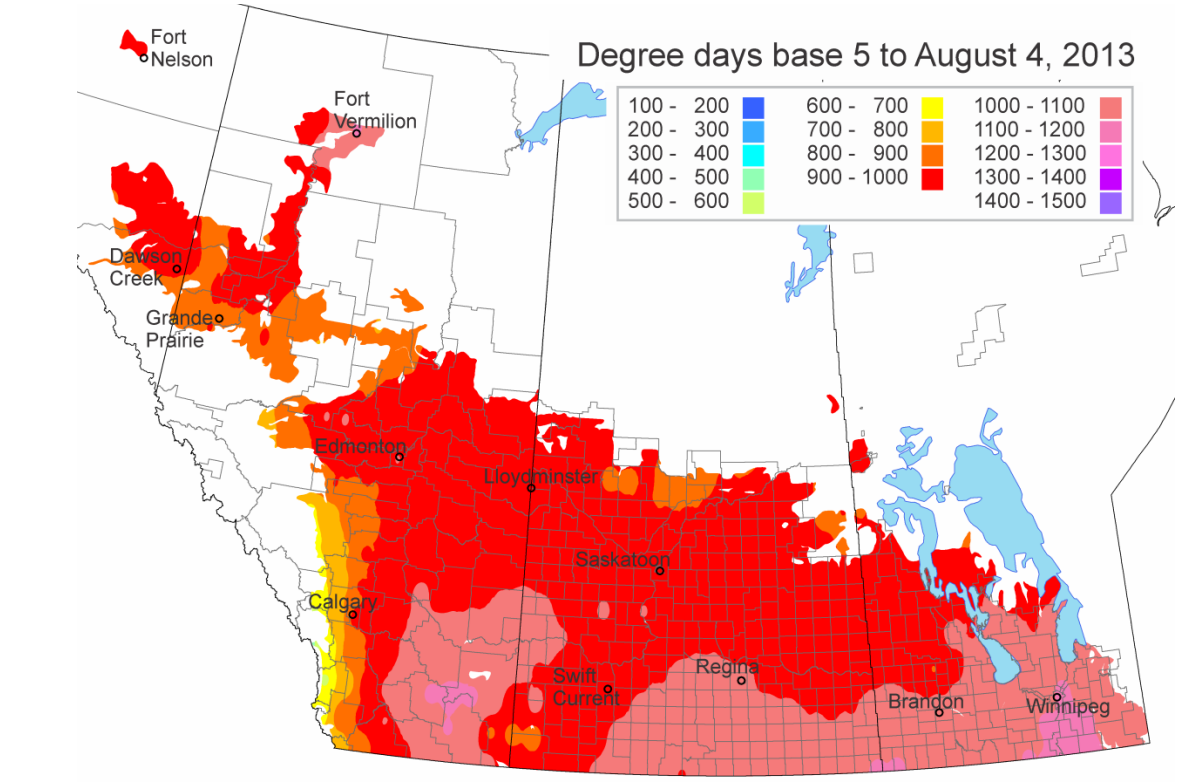
The map below shows the **Percent of Average Precipitation** for the growing season (April 1-August 4, 2014):



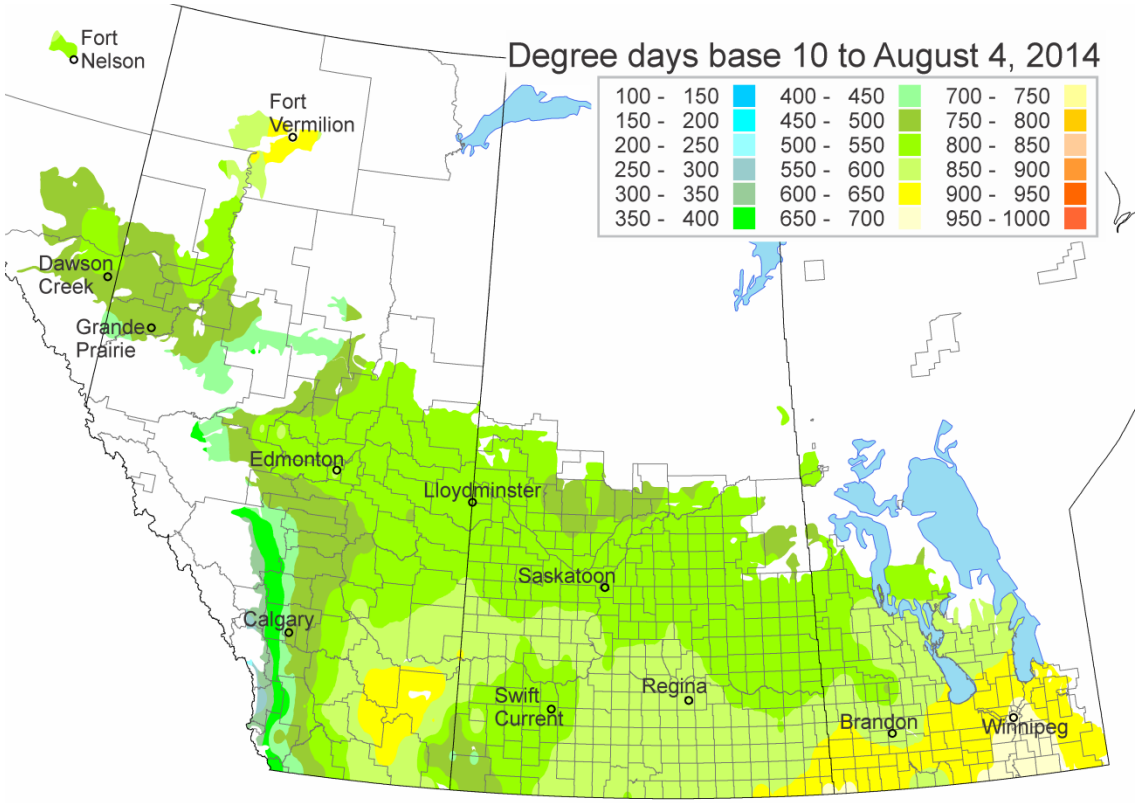
The map below reflects the **Highest Temperatures across the Prairies the past 7 Days** (i.e., July 29-August 4, 2014).



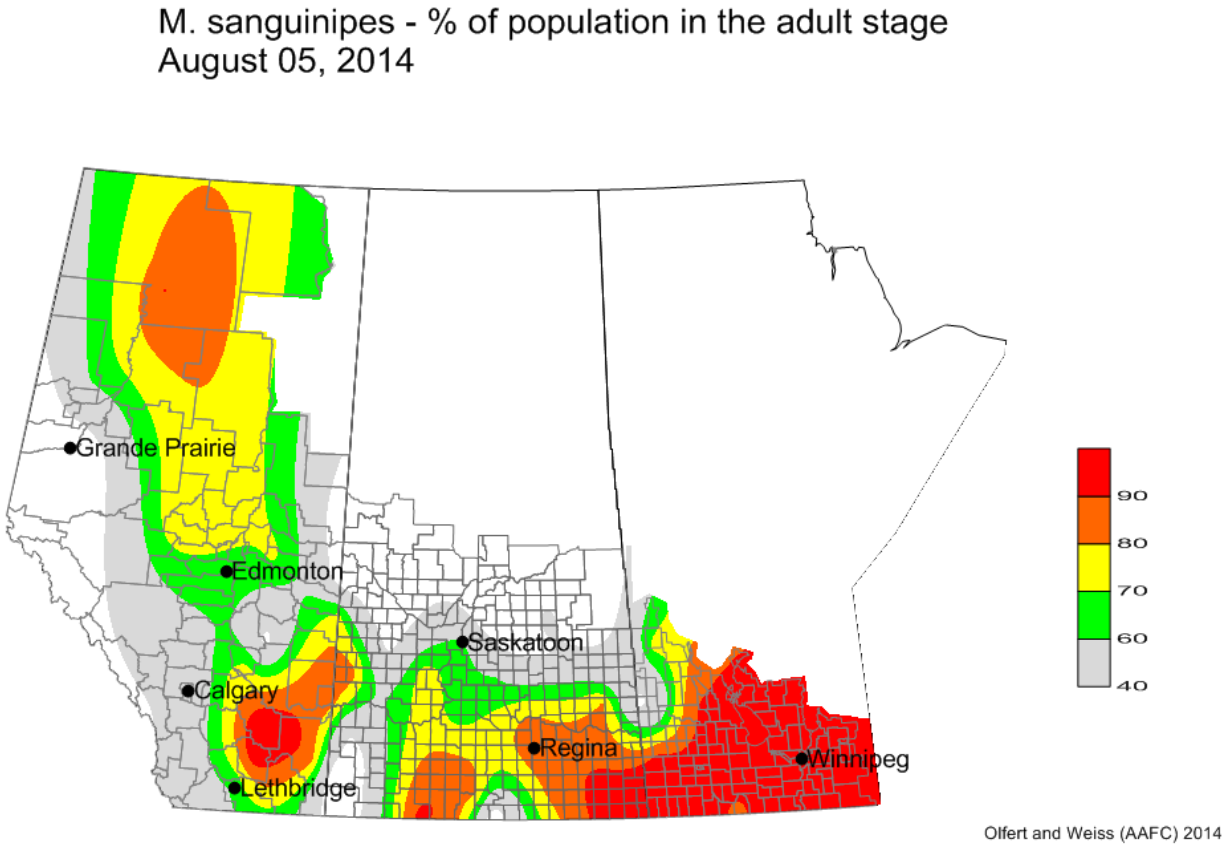
Growing degree day (GDD) estimates reflect the growing season, in terms of heat accumulation, across the prairies. Below is the **GDD (Base 5ºC) for the Growing Season** (April 1-August 4, 2014):



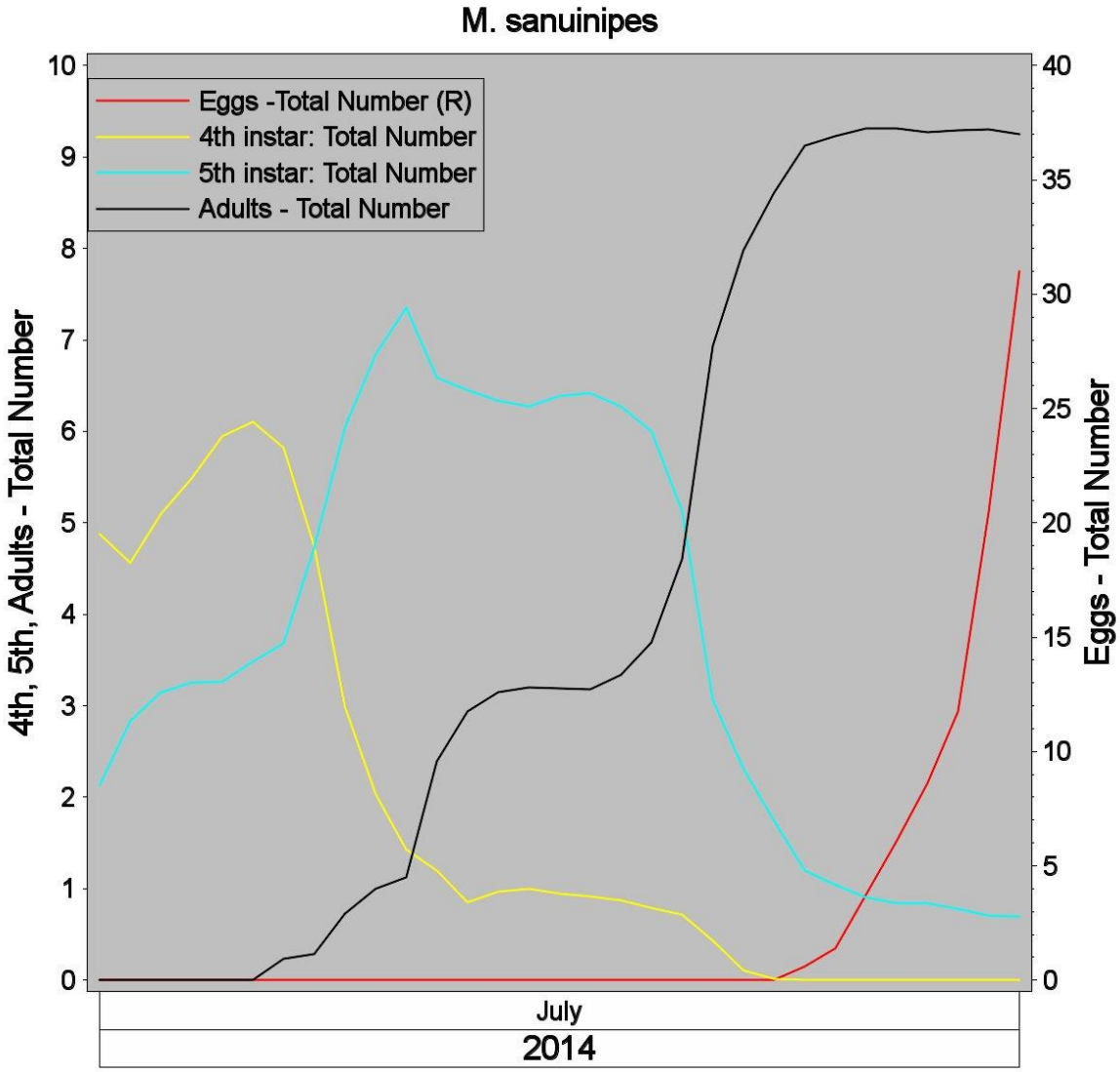
While the **GDD (Base 10ºC) for the Growing Season** (April 1-August 4, 2014) is mapped below:



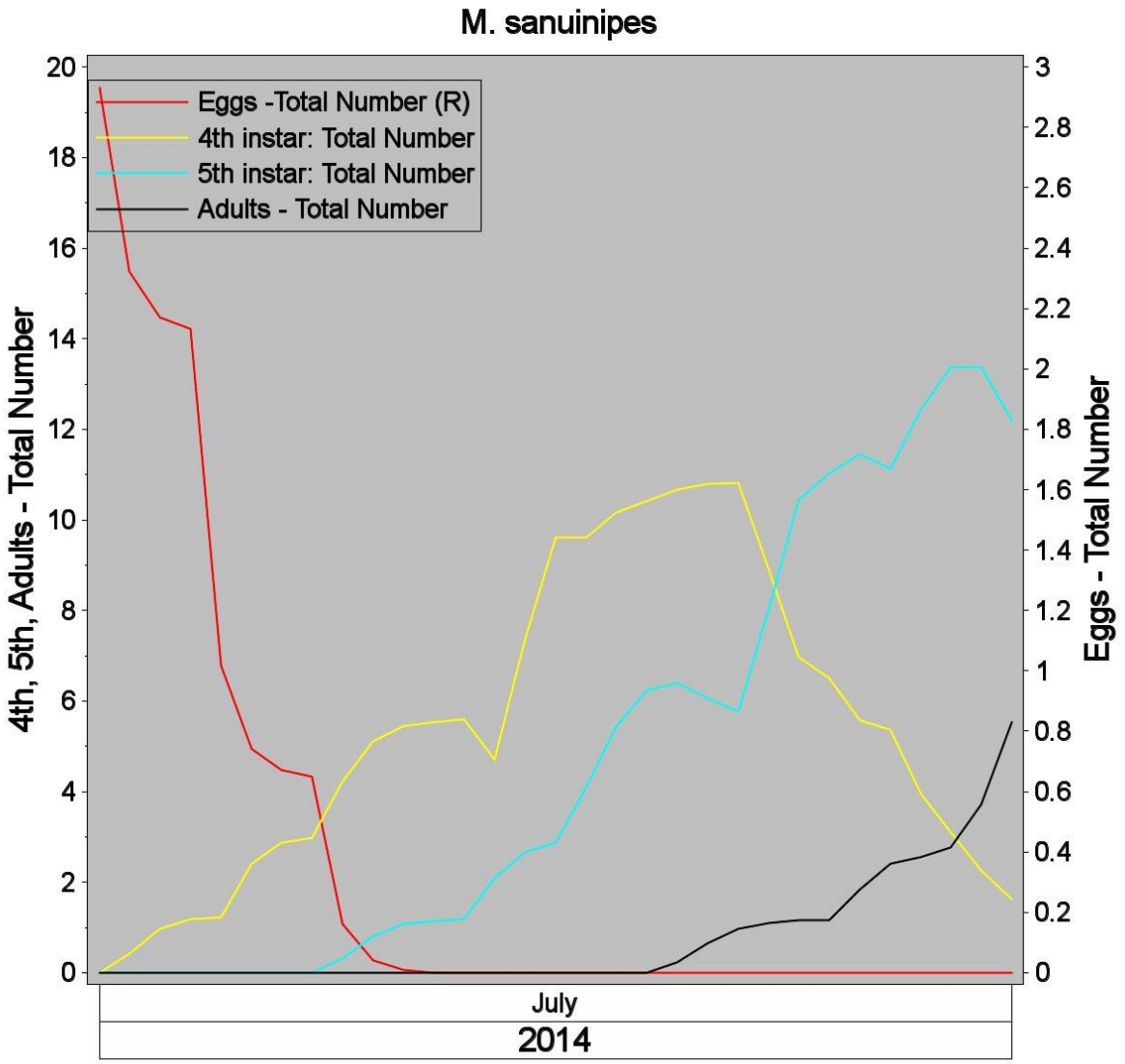
2. **Grasshoppers** – Though adults are predicted to occur in all locations, grasshopper development is predicted to be greater in Manitoba than for other regions. The model indicates that oviposition has begun across approximately 30% of the prairies.



Grasshopper populations near Winnipeg should be primarly in the adult stage, with a low percentage of 5th Instars still present. Oviposition began about 10 days ago.



The phenology of grasshopper populations in the Lethbridge area is predicted to be a little behind that of Winnipeg grasshoppers; approximately 25% adults with 75% still in the 4th and 5th Instar. Oviposition is predicted to begin this week.

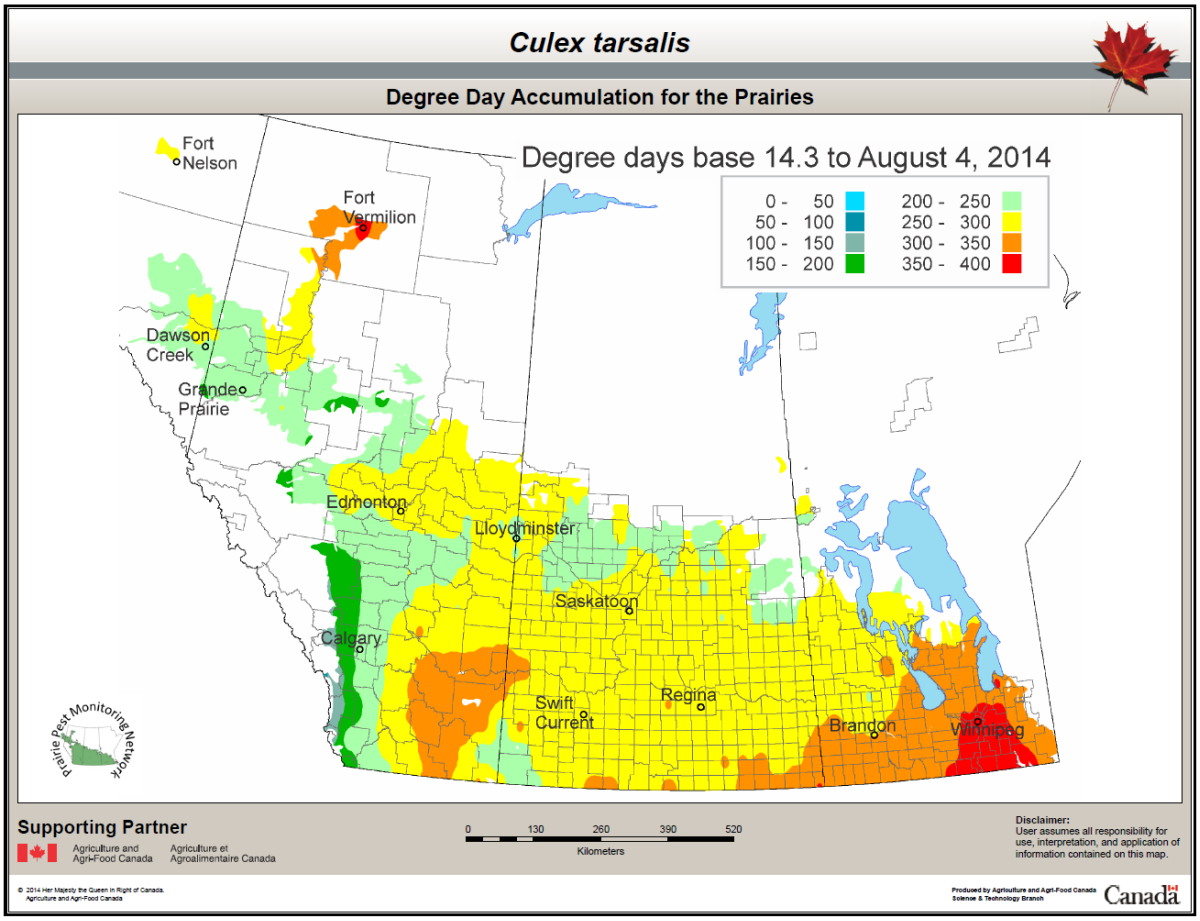


3. Swede Midge (*Contarinia nasturtii*) **–** I was hoping to get an update from Julie and Lars on the 2014 density and distribution of swede midge populations in Saskatchewan, but they've been on the road most of this week. Unlike their relative, the wheat midge (*Sitodiplosis mosellana*), swede midge have multiple overlapping generations. So there is potential for the population to continue to expand well into the fall.

4. Crop Reports - The provincial Crop Reports can be accessed at their respective websites:

- Manitoba's Crop Report: http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports/crop-report-archive/index.html
- Saskatchewan's Crop Report: http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/crop-report
- Alberta's Crop Report: http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd4191
- Link here to access the USDA's Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.

5. West Nile Mosquito (*Culex tarsalis*). August is THE month. This week, Manitoba Health reported their first mosquito specimens that were infected with West Nile Virus. Similar assessments are being conducted in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Just a reminder that mid-July to mid-August has historically been the high risk period for West Nile virus transmission. The regions most advanced in degree-day accumulations for *Culex tarsalis* are shown in the map below. Last year, there were 21 confirmed cases of West Nile virus infections in Alberta, including one fatality. So when you're out in the field over the next weeks, don't forget your DEET!



5. Questions or problems accessing the contents of this Weekly Update? Please e-mail or call either Owen.Olfert@agr.gc.ca (tel. 306-385-9355) or Jennifer.Otani@agr.gc.ca (tel. 780-354-5132). Past and present "Weekly Updates" are kindly posted to the Western Forum website by webmaster, Dr. Kelly Turkington. Please click here to link to that webpage.