

# Sunflower

## Highlights

August 3, 2015



### Markets

It was another tough week for all commodities as gains made in July continue to evaporate. Sunflower prices at the crush plants have followed the action on the CBoT to some degree but have not sustained the same losses as other oilseeds. Birdfood prices have picked up the past few weeks as plants try to purchase the last remaining old crop stocks and this is supporting seed values. August and September are historically strong months for birdfood prices as plants gear up for the winter sales season. Traders continue to watch economic events unfold in China. The recent downturn in China's stock market is raising concerns about their demand for oilseeds this fall and into 2016. Adding further downward price pressure were reports that farmers in Brazil and Argentina have slowed new crop sales, thus creating more competition for US exports this fall. In the week ahead, weather and crop conditions will be the main traded features as oilseeds are in the most important reproductive time frame between now and the first week of September. Traders are viewing weather forecasts in key soybean production states as a non-threat at this time.

### CROP PROGRESS

State	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 yr Av
<b>N. Dakota</b>				
<i>Blooming</i>	53	25	18	30
<b>S. Dakota</b>				
<i>Blooming</i>	20	9	22	23
<b>Texas</b>				
<i>Harvested</i>	7	NA	20	4
<b>Kansas</b>				
<i>Blooming</i>	21	14	26	33

Source: USDA NASS

### SUNFLOWER CROP CONDITIONS

State	VP	Poor	Fair	Good	Ex
<b>N. Dakota</b>	0	8	19	65	8
<b>S. Dakota</b>	0	2	26	69	3
<b>Minnesota</b>	0	2	36	55	7
<b>Colorado</b>	0	5	29	50	16
<b>Kansas</b>	1	2	27	61	9

Source: USDA NASS (not all states reporting)

### GROWER REPORT

Lemmon, SD area producer Lance Hourigan is happy with this year's sunflower crop. He was able to get all but about ten percent of his 2,500 acres of sunflowers planted and after a wet spring, the summer has been fairly dry and hot, making it perfect for sunflowers. Right now, about a quarter of his sunflower are fully headed out, and the rest aren't too far behind. Hourigan planted half high oleic and half NuSun flowers this year

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### KEEP SCOUTING FOR INSECTS

Growers should soon also be scouting for red sunflower seed weevil. Adults will be emerging soon and will fly to the nearest flowering sunflowers. Scout for adult seed weevils on the early blooming sunflower fields, when the yellow ray petals are just beginning to show. For more on red sunflower weevils, including a video on how to scout for these insects, visit [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/insects/red-and-gray-seed-weevils/](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/insects/red-and-gray-seed-weevils/)

### INSECTICIDE CONTROL OF SUNFLOWER HEAD INSECTS

Insecticide application for management of sunflower head insects is directed at the larval stage of the banded sunflower moth (BSM) and sunflower moth, which is the actual damaging stage. But, insecticides should be targeted at the adult red sunflower seed weevils (RSSW) to prevent egg laying. The best sunflower plant stage to treat is usually the R5.1 growth stage, or when pollen shed is just beginning on the outer rim of the sunflower head. This is the time when most BSM eggs have hatched. Egg hatch into larvae in about 5-8 days and larvae mature in about 2 weeks. Insecticide treatments need to be timed 12-15 days after BSM egg hatch depending on temperatures. At this time, BSM larvae are beginning to feed on the disk flowers and are exposed on the head, and are susceptible to the insecticide treatment. For RSSW, adult weevils are feeding on pollen and laying eggs into the developing seed at this time (early flowering). We've got more information and a link to an NDSU video on scouting, on our website: [www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/insects/banded-sunflower-moth/](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/growers/insects/banded-sunflower-moth/)