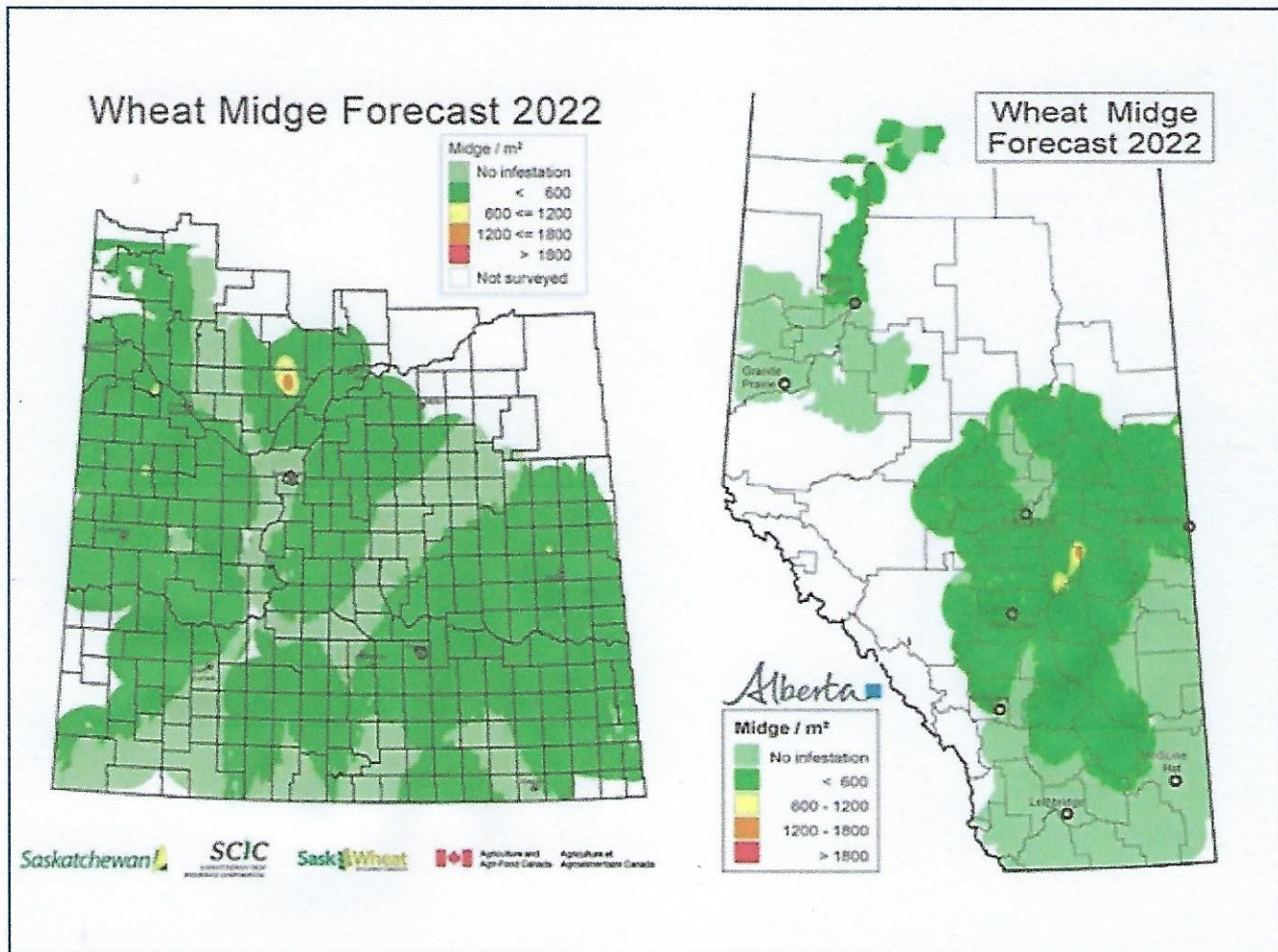




2022 Wheat Midge Outlook



There may be fewer wheat midge flying around fields this spring. According to the recently released annual forecast maps, there is a decreased risk of the pest that is known to cause yield and quality losses.

"The 2022 map is mostly green, which indicates midge levels of less than 600 per square metre. That's good news for farmers," says Dr. Tyler Wist, research scientist of field crop entomology with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon. Midge damage is still possible at this level, but risk is considerably reduced.

In past years, red pockets dotted the forecast maps, flagging areas of more than 1,800 midge per square metre, the most threatening level. In this year's maps, only areas around Camrose Country, Alberta and the north-central region of Saskatchewan are shaded yellow and orange, which warns of potential for increased risk.

While the provincial maps are a good indicator for growers and agronomists of what's to come, Mother Nature has the final say. Moisture – at least 25 mm of accumulative spring rainfall – ultimately determines the timing and severity of a midge infestation. Producers should assess risk based on their own field situations and practice scouting in season.

Growers who plant Midge Tolerant Wheat varieties will benefit from the peace of mind and savings per acre in both time and money by not having to spray for the pest. Growers only have to sign the evergreen Agreement once and use the technology responsibly -- that means limiting the use of Midge Tolerant Wheat farm-saved seed to one generation past Certified.