

A yellow combine harvester is positioned in the center-left of the frame, partially obscured by tall, golden-brown grass. The harvester's large glass cab and yellow body are visible. The background shows a line of trees under a grey, overcast sky. The overall scene is a rural agricultural setting.

# Switchgrass gall midge, a new insect pest in Ontario

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# SGM background information

- Discovered in 2008 in South Dakota
- Observed in ornamental and agronomic switchgrass in US
- First observed in Ontario in 2020 by OMAFRA staff



# SGM Damage



Healthy Tillers

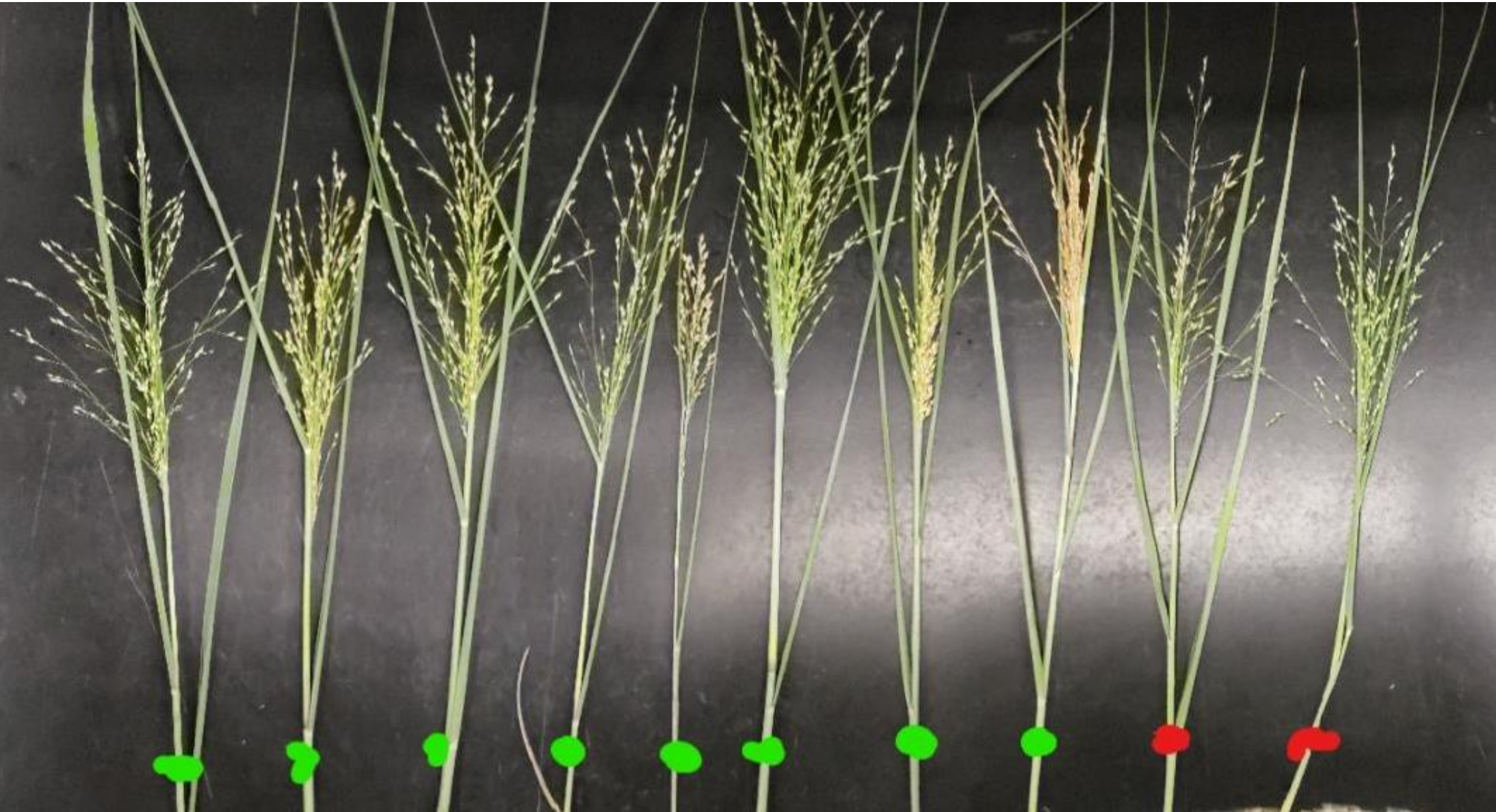


Infested Tillers

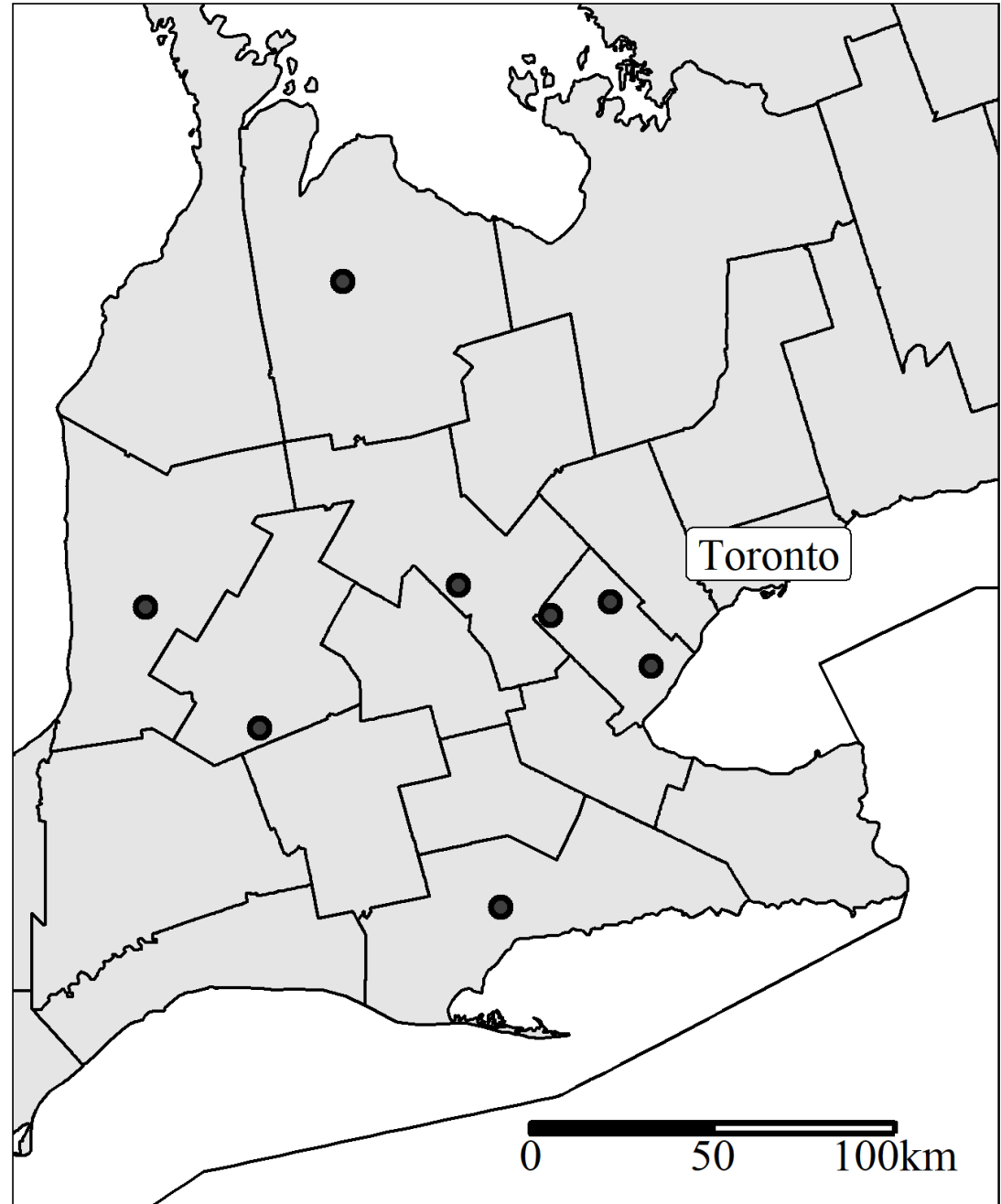
- Larvae feed on reproductive tissue in the inflorescence
- Shortened tillers
- Panicle does not emerge fully from sheath flag leaf
- Economic relevance unknown



Sometimes damage is not so clear



Summer  
2021  
Distribution



# Field Distribution



215 m



970 m

# Summary

- Discovered in Ontario in 2020
- Feeds on reproductive tissue
- Damage to panicle and stunted growth
- Present across southern Ontario
- Found ~200m into field

# Next steps

- Distribution surveys
- Transect surveys
- Phenology
- Pest status/ develop IPM





Questions?

