

# Beets (Red)

## Cultivars

Contact Manitoba Agriculture and Food's Vegetable Specialist for variety recommendations.

## Seed Treatment, Seeding and Spacing

Seed should be treated prior to seeding to control damping off and seed decay. Refer to the fungicide section of the *Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection 2003*.

## Fertilizer

Refer to Tables 1 through 9 for this crop. For general recommendations in the absence of a soil test, refer to Table 10 in the fertility section.

## Trace Elements – Boron

To prevent internal black spots, apply 20 lb/acre borax along with the fertilizer, or spray with a foliar spray at 4 lb/acre. This physiological condition is most likely to occur on alkaline soils after prolonged hot, dry periods.

## Pest Management

### Diseases

#### Damping-Off and Seedling

To minimize damping-off and seedling diseases, use seed treated with one of the registered fungicides.

#### Cercospora Leaf Spot

This disease is more of a problem on fresh, bunched beets. If monitoring indicates a need, apply a recommended fungicide.

#### Pocket Rot / Root Rot

This disease is caused by *Rhizoctonia* fungi. Symptoms vary from cankers on lower petioles and crowns to root rot of beets. The disease is more severe when long periods of wet conditions

prevail. Avoid splashing soil onto beet roots and rotate with grain crops.

### Insects

#### Leaf Miners

Leaf miner control is usually required only for bunching beets, where damage-free tops are required.

#### Aphids

If monitoring indicates a problem, spray with one of the pesticides recommended in the *Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection 2003*.

#### Webworm

Webworms are usually only a minor problem in Manitoba. On bunched beets, treatment may be warranted if more than 3% - 6% of the plants are infested.

### Weeds

Competition from weeds can reduce yield and also make harvesting more difficult. For recommended herbicides refer to the *Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection 2003*.

### Vegetable Quality

Heavy rains following a hot, dry period or extended periods of high temperature will cause poor colour. Rains in the late summer or early fall, when cooler temperatures occur, may increase colour intensity. In general, cool temperatures produce the best flesh colour.

### Storage

Mature topped beets may be stored for five to six months at 0°C and 90% - 95% relative humidity.