CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonalreports.html

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Canola

Seeding is complete, with some fields last week being re-seeded due to excess flea beetle damage. The emerged canola ranges from cotyledon to 4 leaf stage. Many fields in the past week were sprayed for weeds, flea beetle control and/or fungicide for blackleg suppression. Flea beetle feeding and damage was reported at or above threshold levels across the province.

Cereals

Spring Cereals:

Spring cereal seeding is nearing completion in Manitoba as AgriInsurance seeding deadlines for spring wheat, oat and barley is June 20.

Crop development ranges from emergence to the tillering. In the June 13 issue of the NDSU Crop and Pest Report, Joel Ransom provided an excellent summary of yield potential of spring cereal crops in the early stages of development. "Relatively cool weather (like what Manitoba and North Dakota are seeing) during early development stages favors tillering, which means there is an increased potential for more spikes per unit area. Furthermore, the number of spikelets per spike is also favored by cool weather. There is a pretty strong negative relationship between the maximum daily temperature during the 4 through 5.5 leaf stages and the number of spikelets per spike. For much of the wheat we are now in or approaching this growth stage. Obviously, optimum yield potential development can only occur, even when temperatures are favorable, if there is adequate moisture and nutrients are not limiting."

Weed control operations continue with good progress being made over the past week. With isolated rain showers, producers are encouraged to continue scouting for disease pressure, such as tan spot. For further information on biology, symptoms of damage, and scouting techniques for the various leaf spot diseases, please visit MAFRI's website at http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/plant-diseases/index.html.

Winter Cereals:

The remaining winter wheat acres continue to benefit from the recent warmer temperatures with crop development ranging from the stem elongation growth stage to entering the flag leaf stage. MAFRI will be offering their fusarium head blight risk forecast in 2013 and producers can subscribe to Fusarium Head Blight Risk Forecast. The maps are issued daily and show current risk for the development of FHB based on temperature and moisture data from the previous 7 days. Warm, humid conditions favour the development of this disease especially around the flowering stage of the crop. The maps are meant as a guideline; it is important to monitor the stage of the crop and to be aware that conditions may change rapidly.

Dry Beans

Dry bean planting is now complete in Manitoba. Plant stages range from still in the ground to unifoliate stage. Warmer weather would be welcome for quicker growth.

Flax

Seeding is complete, with crop staging ranging from not emerged to 2 inches in height. Some earliest seeded fields are being sprayed for weeds as optimal timing for crop safety is between 2 to 6 inches. No disease or insect concerns at this time.

Fruit Crops

Strawberry fields at 30-50% flowering. Expect a delayed harvest with the cool spring, estimated to start second week of July. Strawberry producers scouting for tarnish plant bug as flowering progress. Most Saskatoon orchards in green fruit stage.

Grain Corn

Grain corn development ranges from emergence to V3 leaf stage. Weed control operations are continuing across the province and producers started side dressing anhydrous ammonia. In a corn weed control program, early removal of weeds is

important to maximize yield. In Ontario, the critical weed free period for corn is from the V2 to V6 leaf stage (or 3 to 8 leaf stage when using the leaf over method). Remember that a large window of application for a product (i.e. 1st to 8th leaf) for application does not equal the same window before weed pressure reduces yields. Waiting for those last few weeds to emerge (and they usually are "not competitive") can be costly in terms of lost yield. Also, studies in the United States have shown that delayed weed control requires substantially more nitrogen in order to optimize yield compared to plots maintained weed-free or with early post applications. Similar observations were seen in Manitoba.

Hay

Only a few winterkill cases were reported this year. Alfalfa stands range from 16 to 24" in height and haying began last week in the east and central regions. First cut dairy hay is approximately 25% complete in the east. Average yields are reported on newer stands, below average on older stands, especially where moisture is limiting. Cooler temperatures delayed flowering leading to potentially above average quality.

Pasture development has been slow this spring, due to cool temperatures and below average soil moisture. Pastures will require significant rainfall this year to maintain growth. Cattle are on pastures. Dugouts are adequate.

Peas

Recent rains and moderate to cool temperatures continue to benefit field pea growth. Weed control measures are now estimated to be 85 to 90% complete with generally excellent weed control and crop tolerance being reported. Nodulation, growth and development continue to be excellent under the cooler and drier conditions experienced throughout the major field pea growing regions of the province. Most field peas are now in the fourth and fifth true leaf (node) stage of development with no other insect or disease issues being reported.

Potatoes

Potato fields that were planted early in the 2013 planting period have emerged. Later planted fields have not yet emerged. Growers continue with hilling, weed control operations and are preparing for fungicide applications. www.mbpotatoes.ca website provides information on P-days a measure of heat units for potatoes, a model on the weather risk associated with the development of late blight, and a measure of crop water demand.

Soybeans

Soybean growth stages range from just emerging through to early unifoliate stage on most fields. Some of the earliest planted fields are just approaching first trifoliate stage. Soybean growth has been slow due to cool soil conditions and there have been reports of both Pythium and Phytophthora showing up on fields were rotations have been shorted and where emergence was very slow. Weed control has begun on some fields and growers should be aware the glyphosate is registered at the first trifoliate stage. Refer the Guide for Crop Protection for rates and weed staging information.

Sunflowers

Seeding is complete, with crop staging at cotyledon to V6. There are reports of cutworm damage in sunflower fields in the eastern area of Manitoba. No disease concerns to date.