

CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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Canola

Canola has finished flowering. Scouting and staging for swathing timing should be occurring 7 to 10 days after the final flowers are off of the canola. Target for swathing timing is 50 to 60% seed color change to brown-black seeds (on main stem bottom 1/3 has mostly all black/brown seed, middle third has 50% brown/black seed, top 1/3 has all seed dark green and firm with spots of brown starting to show). Blackleg is identified in many fields in Manitoba. Bertha armyworms are at economic control levels found in fields.

Cereals

Spring Cereals

Manitoba's cereal crops continue to progress rapidly as a result of the on-going warm conditions last week. Preharvest glyphosate applications and swathing operations continue. Due to variable maturity within fields and lodging causing regrowth, many producers are opting to swath prior to harvesting.

Harvest has started in most areas of Manitoba. Yields to date are generally average to above average; spring wheat yields range from 40 to 75 bu/acre, barley 70 to 80 bu/acre, and oats 100 to 130 bu/acre. The 10-year average (2003 to 2012) yields for spring cereals in Manitoba are: spring wheat 44 bu/acre, barley 60 bu/acre and oats 84 bu/acre. Good quality is noted but lower protein levels (11.5 to 13.5%) are currently observed in spring wheat.

Winter Cereals

Harvest of Manitoba's winter wheat crop continues as hot, dry weather is allowing for excellent progress. Reported yields range from 50 to 90 bu/acre with good quality; protein levels range from 10.5 to 12.5%. Low fusarium head blight levels are also observed.

Edible Beans

Earlier season edible bean types such as light red kidney beans and cranberry beans are approaching maturity. The hot weather we have been experiencing has moved the beans along very quickly.

This week will be the start of pre-harvest weed control occurring on fields where weeds are a concern for harvest. Growers that are considering using pre-harvest glyphosate to control these weeds should consider the following - Countries that Canada exports to have maximum residue levels for products such as glyphosate. If you spray too early the residue level could be higher than what is allowed so proper staging is important. The stems should be green to brown in colour and pods mature (yellow to brown) with 80 - 90% leaf drop of original leaves.

Producers should check with the companies they sell their beans to verify any restrictions that they may have when using glyphosate or any pre-harvest product used on their edible beans.

Flax

Crop staging ranges from flowering to early ripening stages. Fusarium wilt is confirmed in field, causing plant death in the areas affected. With heavy rains some flax is starting to lodge, but mostly coming back up as drier and breezy weather dries the canopy. Limited pest concerns to date.

Fruit Crops

Day-neutral strawberry harvesting has started with average yields and good berry size. Monitoring for spotted winged drosophila in these fields continues.

With the recent hot and dry conditions of late August most berry fields/orchards will require irrigation to ensure continued development of fruit buds for next year. See article from MN Dept. of Ag on summer drought and its effects on berry crops: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/ipm/~medi a/Files/plants/ipm/2013-08-23pimupdate.ashx> .

Peas

The continuation of warm, above average temperatures last week resulted in a rapid dry down and ripening of the pea crop. Preharvest desiccation and swathing of field pea continues with some harvesting of early seeded crops occurring. Early yield reports are generally well above average with excellent quality being harvested.

Soybeans

Soybeans progressed rapidly last week. The first yellow leaves are beginning to show in fields. Reports of white mould and bacterial blight are still being reported. Soybeans need to reach to R7 Stage which means one brown pod anywhere on the main stem before frost will not affect yield although it could still affect quality at this stage. Currently more advanced fields are at the R6 growth stage. The hot weather forecasted this week should help greatly with maturity. There are a few reports of grasshoppers feeding on soybeans leaves.

Sunflowers

Crop staging at R6 to R7. Insect scouting for lygus and banded sunflower moth larvae continue. Remember control measures for seed head insects are between R 5.1 and R 5.5, remember to use the economic thresholds for deciding on control measures! Fungicide timing for Head Rot Control is R5.1 with a second application timing 10 to 14 days after the first application if conditions warrant.

Sunflower rust has also been found. Scouting should be focused on the four leaves below the head for appearance of pustules and a fungicide is recommended when 1% of the leaf area is covered with pustules when plant is flowering.

Vegetable Crops

Vegetable crop harvest is ongoing. The recent high temperatures are causing a number of vegetable crops to mature faster than they would normally. These hot temperatures have caused an increase in the reports of non-pathogenic injury on vegetable crops. The most commonly reported this past week was cracking on tomatoes.

(Fig. 1: Radial Cracking)



Radial cracking occurs most often as the fruit ripening when rainfall has followed an extended dry period.

(Fig. 2: Concentric Cracking)



Concentric cracking are primarily found on the shoulder of the tomato fruit. They usually appear as circles or part of a circle made up of scar tissue.

An even moisture supply will reduce the chances of tomato fruit exhibiting radial and/or concentric cracking.

Zippering of tomatoes manifests itself as brown tissue running down the sides of a tomato looking like a zipper. Though not proven, the common cause is suspected to be partial shedding of the petals when the fruit is forming. Using varieties selected for not usually expressing this is the primary method of control.

(Fig. 3: Zippering)



Blossom end rot of tomato is another common disorder found on tomato fruit. It is expressed as dark sunken areas on the blossom end of the fruit. Water stress can result in the condition. The problem can be reduced by maintaining an adequate and even supply of moisture to the tomato.