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## Between the Rows

Observations of Scott Schaffert  
CCA P.Ag. 4R from the past week.



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Be the first to answer the question of the week and win a prize from Crop Maxx.



# Seeding Update



Seeding is rapidly progressing in the MacKenzie Region this year. Most peas are already in the ground, with producers moving on to wheat or canola as early as next week. With no weather delays and fields rapidly drying it's been full steam ahead. At this point last year, less than 5% of peas had been seeded, so we are 2 weeks ahead of last year. Supply issues with inoculant and fertilizer have been noted as farmers are getting all rushing to get their last few bags and tonnes on farm. One thing to remember is: we are earlier than normal, so if you get delayed getting that last inoculant bag or tonne of fertilizer, please be patient, we still have time.



## A little about me...

I thought I'd take this empty space in this week's newsletter to tell you a little about myself. My name is Scott Schaffert and I have been an Agronomist in the Peace Country for over 25 years. I was born on a Registered Horned Hereford Ranch in the Sandhills of Western Nebraska. So, my first love has always been cattle. Just before I started high school, my parents moved us to a ranch west of Edmonton near Highvale. I went to Olds College and got a Diploma in Livestock Production. Then I attended the University of Alberta, Majoring in Plant Science. While at U of A, I began my career in research at the Agronomy Unit of Alberta Agriculture. It was there I met my future wife, Camille Ducharme. In 1995 we moved to Fort Vermilion, and I joined NPARA as Research Coordinator at the Experimental Farm. In 2000 I joined UFA. In 2001, we moved to just west of Peace River in the hills above the valley. In 2022 I decided to come help Danny Friesen at his new independent CropMaxx retail. I welcome the chance to serve farmers in this area and provide Agronomic Services that can benefit your farm.

## Moisture



Soil Moisture conditions continue to hold strong. I have been sampling several fields in the Fort Vermilion area and soil moisture is consistent throughout the top 12 inches sampled. In fact, the soil probe goes in so easily, I don't even have to step on it. However, several hot days

with low humidity are forecast over this coming weekend. Farmers should be aware that although the soil moisture is good right now, you should avoid any unnecessary field work until we receive some good showers.

## Question of the Week

Peas are a unique crop that can take Nitrogen from the

air and utilize it as an essential nutrient. This reduces the requirement of added nitrogen to fertilizer blends for peas. On the roots of peas and other legume plants, certain bacteria grow into the root, forming a nodule that can take in Nitrogen from the air, and converting it to a form the plant can use. In

exchange, the pea root provides the bacteria with sugars and carbohydrates they need to grow. So, the question this week is: "What happens when you add a "starter N urea" to the pea fertilizer blend?"



- A. Starter N boosts pea yield
- B. Starter N makes the bacteria more efficient at fixing N.
- C. Starter N reduces the formation of nodules.
- D. Starter N increases the formation of nodules.

The first person to call Sherri at (780) 927-(CROP)2767, wins this week's prize.

## Wildfires in Alberta



What a weekend. As I returned to Peace River last Friday, the sky was as dark as a strong thunderstorm would be, however it was Smoke from fires near High Prairie and Harmon Valley. Strong winds pushed these fires fast. A fire near Three Creek did

go into the Grazing Reserve there. Other areas such as near Cleardale and Fairview saw damage. With another super-hot dry weekend in the forecast, please be careful out there.

## Answer to Last Week's Quiz

The answer to last week's question was "C", the date you seeded it. The clock for the effectiveness of seed treatments starts the minute you put it in the ground. So, when a seed treatment claims 14 days protection from flea beetles, which means 14 days from the day you seeded it. Therefore, quick emergence is the key to flea beetle protection when you need it most. This year growers are trying out some seed treatments such as Primer, which add fertilizer to the seed coat. The theory being that this will speed up emergence. I will be monitoring this canola to see if this is true. Watch for updates as the season progresses. And the winner of last week's quiz was Andrew Giesbrecht.



