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# Between the Rows

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## Seeding and Spraying Update

Seeding in the MacKenzie Region is basically wrapped up. According to Alberta Agriculture 94% of the major crops for this area (canola, peas and cereals) has been seeded by May 30. Emergence at this time was rated at 78%, as is now well above that figure, we are also 36% above our 5 year average. Basically seeding is done across the province.

Spraying is still progressing ahead of previous years. Most of the peas have been sprayed and some cereals and 1st

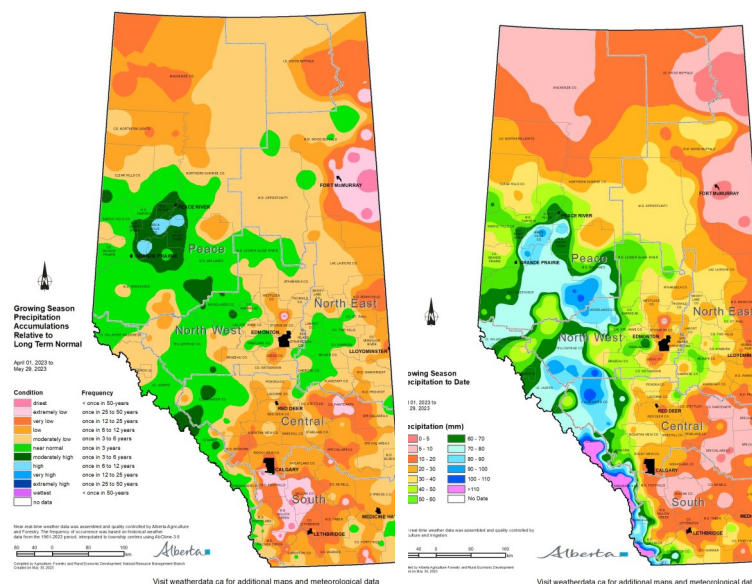
pass canola applications are also done. Windy conditions have delayed some applications and I need to caution growers that spraying in windy conditions not only can cause spray drift issues, but will also effect how well herbicides work in your own field. Often times you might be tempted to go ahead and spray if there are no neighboring fields to drift on. But what can happen, even within your own field, is that application rates become highly variable and portions

of the field may receive too little (reducing weed control) or too much (which may cause crop damage). So please be extra cautious and only spray when conditions are right.

If you are unsure about the correct stage or have question about which product or rate to use; please give me a call. In my scouting updates I send you each time I'm out in your field I look to provide you as much information as possible so you can make the correct decision for each field.

## Moisture Update

Soil moisture conditions continue to decline in the MacKenzie Region. Recent showers have eased the situation in the High Level area, but Boyer, Beaver Ranch and the far east of Fox Lake Road either received none or very little from these showers. Meanwhile the central and south Peace areas have received abundant showers since seeding finished down there. At my place just outside of Peace River got nearly 3" during the last weekend in May alone. However even with the low rainfall received so far, crops I have scouted, are not showing any signs of drought stress, so far. Temperatures have not been too high and smoke has reduced the drying effect of the sun. So we are holding on for now. But I'm sure everyone would welcome a day-long soaking rain, especially as we enter the time of the highest moisture demand from our crops



### Spraying weeds? Here's a few tips

## Spraying Weeds? Here's a few tips

Proper application of in-crop herbicides is an integral part of successful modern farming operations. Improper mixing, water volumes, rates and timing can cause both reduce weed control and possible crop damage.

1. Choose the right chemical to do the right job. The right choice of chemical means: knowing the weeds present, their growth stage and the crop stage. Use of the wrong chemical at the wrong stage can mean disappointing results.
2. Follow proper mixing instructions. Some tank mixes can be quite complicated and their
3. Use the recommended water volumes. Water is the cheapest part of the tank mix, however logistics can often make water a hassle. But use of too low a water volume can reduce the effectiveness of a chemical. For example contact herbicides require more water volume since they don't translocate within the plant.
4. Avoid cutting rates. Herbicides have a recommended rate for a
5. Application of a herbicide too late or too early in the growth stage of the weeds and the crop can cause either reduced weed control or crop damage.
6. Call me if you have questions (780) 618-5142

mixing order is no different. Mixing in the wrong order can reduce weed control or even cause issues in the tank.

reason. When herbicides are registered they are assigned a rate that provides proper weed control. Climate conditions, weed population and growth stage vary from year to year, the registered rate takes this into account. Besides manufacturing warranties are usually void if you cut the rate.

## Hockey, Beaver, Tim Horton's and Canada Thistle

*Cirsium arvense* is an iconic weed of the Canadian Prairies. A member of the Sunflower (Compositae) family of plants, no other plant says "Canada" as well, eh? I like to think of Canada thistle is to Canadian weeds what Gordon Lightfoot is to Canadian music. We can be proud to have such a dynamic, vigorous and destructive weed named for our country. Of course I'm being facetious here, but in terms of a perennial weed nothing beats Canada Thistle.

Canada Thistle did not actually originate in Canada. It actually originates from the Mediterranean and northern Africa. It's thought to have

got its name from the mistaken belief that it was introduced and spread by fur traders, however it is now known to have immigrated with settlers prior to the fur trade.

Thistle is known for fluff that contains the seed. It is a common misconception that this is the main mechanism of spread. In fact the flowers must be cross pollinated to produce viable seed, with both male and female flowers present. So the main mechanism of spread is it's lateral roots. These roots contain large amounts of reserves, and when they are cut and spread by cultivation each small piece has the poten-

tial for a new plant. In fact, a 1 inch section of root was placed in a medium without nutrients, and it sprouted a viable shoot over 30 times.

Out of all the weeds; Canada should be proud to have our weed be the Canada Thistle.



### Weed of the Week: Canada Thistle

## Question of the Week

This weeks question is has to do with herbicide mode of action. Which herbicide group is causing this type of damage?

- A Group 9
- B Group 2
- C Group 1
- D Group 10

In next week's issue I will delve more into herbicide mode of action and groups. But if you think you know the answer to the Question of the Week, call Sherri at the CropMaxx Office (780) 927-CROP (2767), the first to answer wins a prize.

Last Week's Answer:

C. Genetic Mutation.

Every once in a while a pea plant will grow from a seed that had a naturally occurring genetic mutation. The one in the picture has a mutation that has effected its chlorophyll activity, hence it's yellow. You may see one or two plants in field, but rarely more than that. So while an interesting sight, its not an economic concern.

