

...FROM THE DESK OF
SCOTT SCHAFFERT P.A.G.
CCA 4R

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BETWEEN THE ROWS

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Preparations for Harvest

As harvest approaches, time is now to plan your preparations for harvest. This usually includes getting the combines, swather, grain carts, and bins all primed up for the season. But don't forget about your pre-harvest chemical applications.

The key to effective pre-harvest chemical applications is to:

1. First determine your goals of a pre-harvest application. I.e. Dry down, weed control.
2. Determine which products will help you achieve this goal.
3. Determine the right rate, tim-

ing, and method of this application.

4. Always keep in mind the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI) for all products you use.

Common pre-harvest products are Reglone Ion (Dessica), Heat LQ and glyphosate. Each has their benefits and limitations so its important to determine which ones will work best for you. Reglone Ion and its generic cousins are true desiccants, drying out the crop. Heat LQ and glyphosate control weeds better, but dry down is generally slower, relying on nature.

Rate and timing of application will depend on which product you choose, and its very important follow label regulations when using these products.

It's very important to also know the PHI of the product you use and that it is determined by the day you cut your crop, not when you combine. Use of a product after the PHI date can lead to detectable residues and potential rejection at the elevator.

I can help tailor a pre-harvest solution and timing to meet your needs. Call me at **(780) 618-5142**.

Current Crop Conditions

There is a new Alberta Crop Report coming out from Alberta Agriculture today (July 25), but rather than wait for this report (that groups the entire Peace as one anyway) I'm going to tell you the crop conditions here as I see them.

As a scout across the region I see the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, just like that old western movie. However we don't have Clint Eastwood coming in to save the day for us, but we did have excellent subsoil moisture. That subsoil moisture has carried us through all year until, yes it finally rained. Over 2" last night and this morning, which is about an

inch over what some areas saw all season to date.

So all things considered we really didn't need old Clint to come in and rescue us, we had our own ace in the hole (or subsoil in this case).

So everyone wants to know will this recent rainfall help us, well yes and no. For canola not finished flowering, it may be able to use this moisture to push up a few more buds and flowers and fill the pods we have.

Cereals and peas however are not likely to get a huge benefit from this rain. Cereal yields were determined long ago and

rain now will only help fill out the heads that are already there. The same goes for peas as they finished flowering long ago. It may however help prevent the peas from drying out and breaking off at the base of the stem, and as long as the internal plumbing of the plant is still intact help fill the pods.

Perhaps one of the biggest potential benefits was the amount we got in a short time may drown out some grasshoppers and diamond backed moth and bertha larvae present, and promote natural fungal control of them.



Aphids & Thrips

Aphids and Thrips

One way to tell an experienced Agronomist from a rookie, is what color of shirt they wear in the field. If you scout or sweep a canola field in a white shirt, you are definitely a rookie. Why does the colour of your shirt matter, you may ask, well the answer is thrips. You can try this at home, go walk around your canola in a white T-shirt and see how long you last. That speck of pepper-sized black bug biting you is a thrip. Thrips (*Thysanoptera*) have rasping-sucking mouthparts that feed by rasping canola pods and sucking in plant fluids. Damage caused by thrips is cause the characteristic curling of pods. Damage is rarely economic and control measure are not necessary, however if your arm has been "rasped" you might be tempted to spray.

Aphids (*Lipaphis erysimi*) are another interesting pest often seen in canola. Rarely causing economical damage; they can "colonize" of a canola plant, com-



Closeup of a Thrip



Characteristic thrip damage.

pletely covering the top 6 inches of the plant. The cool thing is that such colonies attract natural predators like parasitic wasp larvae, ladybird beetles and lacewings. Often you will see ladybird beetles tending their colony, letting them flourish, then picking off a few for lunch.

So next you're out in your field; look for a few of the "cool" bugs out there, and don't be a rookie and wear a white shirt. Thrips are attracted to white.



Uncommon aphid damage.

Sherri Wiebe

Meet Sherri Wiebe

I found myself here by sending an accidental job application for the wrong town! I have been here for 14 months now as Office Manager of Cropmaxx.

I moved here in May 2022 from a small secluded ocean town called Powell River on the West Coast of BC where for the past 7 years I owned a screen printing/sign making business. Prior to this my experience had been in restaurant/bar management. With a diploma in Photography I also worked for a newspaper and spent a lot of time at events as a photographer.

The challenge to move to a northern Alberta small town was too great for me to turn down. The change was welcomed and so far I am enjoying meeting the locals and getting to know the farming industry and the farmers. I look forward to learning much more about the industry this year and grow with Cropmaxx and Dynamic Crop And Soil Services Ltd.



Fall Soil Sampling

Imagine for a moment you own a large company that produces widgets. Now you've produced widgets for 3 generations, and are quite good at it. Your experts at planning which widget you'll make, how to properly set your equipment, and to protect that widget to maximize your production. However you have no idea how much of each part that goes into making that widget you have available, and just make as many widgets until the parts run out. Okay you've probably realized the analogy of widgets to crop production. on hand,

Plants require certain nutrients to grow, the only source for these nutrients is the soil. The soil is the "bank", all the parts required must be there. Knowing what and how much is there is necessary to maximizing the economic potential of crop production. Soil also comes in many different forms, parent material, past cropping systems, and moisture levels are also key to unlocking this bank. Nutrients also act differently in the soil, some are readily available and some require soil microb activity to become available to the plant. Some are highly mobile and some

are not. Putting all these pieces together is what a soil test can do.

This fall if you want to know how many parts you have to create your widgets, or the balance of the soil "bank" are available, we can do a soil test to give you these answers. Here at Dynamic Crop and Soil we can take your soil samples and either analyze it immediately on site with our Near Infrared Scanner or send the samples to an accredited lab. Then I can take these results and interpret them and develop a nutrient plan to maximize your widget or crop production

On Farm Trials



Ever wanted to try something new but unsure it will work on your farm? The best ways to determine if it works on your farm is to run your own field trial. However on-farm field trials if done incorrectly can give you faulty results. By properly setting up your trial you can be assured that the results you get are accurate and applicable to the rest of your farm. If your interested in setting up an on-farm trial, give me a call at (780) 618-5142 and I'll work with you.



Question of the Week

Question of the Week



This week's question is:
When is the PHI (Pre-Harvest Interval) calculated?

- A Date you cut your crop
- B Date you seed crop
- C Date you combine your swath
- D Date the Oilers win the Cup

Know the answer to the Question of the Week, call Sherri at the CropMaxx Office (780) 927-CROP

The first to answer wins a prize.

Last Week's Answer:

D. Alfalfa Looper, which has 3 leg groupings, the front has 3 legs pairs, the center 2 leg pairs and a single pair at the end. This creates the unique inch-worm like walk of the looper.