

...FROM THE DESK OF
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Canola Herbicide Timing

Proper timing of herbicides for weed control in canola is crucial for achieving high yields. However, the proper timing does depend on which canola your growing, your overall strategy for weed control and even current conditions.

For Liberty-Link canola the proper crop stage is anytime between cotyledon to bolting. That's a wide window. But what this does, is allow us to use different strategies. If you are planning to do 2 passes, then the cotyledon to 1-2lf stage gives you early weed control, with the 2nd pass for later flushes. But if you would rather just do one pass then you may be able to catch all the weeds before bolting. One thing to keep in mind is that research has shown that heavy early weed pressure results in the highest yield loss. So although we may have a plan, weeds can often change those plans. One other note on Liberty application: Liberty works best when sprayed mid-morning of a sunny warm (not hot) day. That doesn't mean it work on a cloudy day, it just works better on a sunny day.

For Tru-Flex Roundup-Ready canola the application stage is even wider, all the way until 1st flower. However the same holds true: heavy early weed pressure results in the greatest yield loss. Since glyphosate tends to be cheaper than Liberty, most growers use a 2 pass system. But you still need to go by the weed pressure. Heavy early weed pressure spray now, little or no pressure: wait for the weeds. Since we often use glyphosate earlier in the season, do keep in mind that if we've had a cool night (<3C), then I would wait for a day or two to spray.

One more note on both systems. In very dry conditions weeds will build up the waxy cuticle layer on their leaves. This makes penetration of the chemical more difficult, especially for a generic-version of glyphosate. In these situation there are surfactant options available.

As always, you can contact a me to help you make these timing decisions.

Welcome to the Team: Keven

Cropmaxx/Big River Agro Fort Vermilion is pleased to announce the appointment of Keven Wright as the new Branch Operations Manager at its Fort Vermilion location.

Originally from the Dufferin/Grey Counties in Southern Ontario, Keven brings with him a rich agricultural heritage. He is the grandson of a Royal Winter Fair Best in Show winner for Red Poll Cattle, a legacy that set the stage for a lifetime of dedication to agriculture and logistics.

Keven's academic journey took him to Oakville, Ontario, where he studied Transportation and Distribution Management. He went on to spend 15 years in the trucking and logistics sector, supporting major automotive operations at Ford's St. Thomas Assembly Plant and Navistar's International Chatham Assembly Plant.

Following the 2009 economic downturn, Keven moved westward, accepting a role in rail and trucking operations at the Louis Dreyfus Canola Crush Plant in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. It was here that a childhood dream came true—he began working on the railroad. Over the next nine years, he served as a transportation supervisor with both CN and CPKC in Saskatchewan, honing his expertise in large-scale logistics.

Keven has also held roles with Crop Production Services (now Nutrien), and later with SaskMilk, where he played a pivotal role in optimizing raw milk transportation. His efforts to redesign transportation routes significantly reduced travel mileage, resulting in a cost saving of \$0.02 per hectoliter for Saskatchewan dairy farmers.

Outside of his professional life, Keven is married to Kim, who works for the Saskatchewan Health Authority. They have three adult children—Joey and Chris, who are employed at Western Cycle Sports in Regina, and Madison, a Lakeland College (Vermilion) alumna who now works at a veterinary clinic in Regina.

The Wright family also maintains a lively animal farm, home to four horses, three dogs, and three cats. Keven and his family are eager to settle into northern Alberta and are looking forward to exploring all the region has to offer.

Big River Agro welcomes Keven Wright with enthusiasm and looks forward to his leadership and contributions to the Fort Vermilion branch.

