



THE PULSE AGRONOMY NETWORK  
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY



## PAN - All Pulse Bulletin #6 – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

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### Pea Leaf Weevil Update

Scott Meers, the Integrated Crop Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, reports that the pea leaf weevil survey is slightly delayed this year, based on the weather. The pea leaf weevil activity has been limited as the pea leaf weevil does not fly until temperatures reach the 15 - 20°C range. Scott has just finished training his summer staff on surveying techniques for pea leaf weevil and expects to visit a few of the more advanced pea fields this week and then proceed full force in the upcoming week.

Ken Coles, with Southern Applied Research Association, has noticed feeding damage in some fields, and encourages farmers to scout for pea leaf weevil especially in areas where pea leaf weevil populations have been significant in previous years.

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### Headline Minor Use Application Submitted

A request for a minor use registration for downy mildew control in dry peas using Headline was submitted to AAFC's minor use program. The groundwork for this registration is complete and has been submitted for registration. The registration will not likely come through in time for this growing season, but a decision is expected for next season.

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### Online Purchase of AFSC Hail Insurance

*Alberta's provincial crop insurer is giving farmers an alternative way to purchase hail insurance.*

The Alberta government is offering crop and forage producers a new online system to purchase Straight Hail Insurance 24 hours a day from Alberta's Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). The new online option provides clients with a choice of purchasing Straight Hail Insurance on the AFSC website, or through traditional methods, such as at an AFSC district office or a hail agent.

"AFSC understands the business needs of modern farm operations and we continue to strive to make risk management programs effective and accessible," said Brad Klak, President and Managing Director of AFSC. "Benefits of the online tool include a two percent premium discount to the client and a more streamlined process."

The online tool for Straight Hail Insurance allows clients to purchase insurance anytime. Any purchases made prior to midnight are effective at noon the following day. Credit card payments are offered through a secure external e-commerce provider, ensuring client's personal credit card information is secure and protected.

Another new purchase feature to be offered through Straight Hail Online is the ability to pay the premium with a credit card - a feature not found at AFSC district offices.

The system was designed based on feedback from clients and is part of AFSC's long term strategy of enhancing the delivery of risk management products to clients. "AFSC is aware of potential response time issues in some areas of rural Alberta" said Klak. "The online tool has been designed to provide the best client experience possible."

Before producers can purchase online coverage, they must first contact AFSC for an activation code. The code provides access to the Straight Hail website and is a security feature that prevents unauthorized access.

For information on how to activate the online Straight Hail Insurance option, contact your local AFSC district office or the AFSC call center at 1-877-899-AFSC (2372). More information on AFSC's services can also be found at [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca).

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### **Ascochyta Scorecard**

Ascochyta in pea crops can lead to yield losses and harvestability problems for producers. The harvestability problems arise from lodging that results when ascochyta has damaged and weakened pea tendrils and stems. One way to avoid these problems is to make timely fungicide applications. In order to make timely fungicide applications, an Ascochyta Scoring System has been developed that is tried, tested and true.

Ken Lopetinsky and Christy Hoy have assessed an Ascochyta Scoring System from 2005 to 2008. Field testing was done on fields with plant stands of at least 7 or 8 plants per square foot, where there was good weed control and good nodulation (active nitrogen fixing nodules present) in order to assess the effectiveness of the scorecard on pea crops with good to excellent yield potential.

The factors assessed with the scorecard are:

1. **Crop canopy** – typically growers tend to overestimate the crop canopy, but it is important to be comfortable with assessing the canopy and assigning a number. A point that Lopetinsky stresses, is that the scorecard is based on a scale, so while there are a range of suggestions of 0 for thin up to 30 for a heavy crop canopy rating, when someone is using the scorecard they might have a number of 17 or 3.
2. **Leaf wetness** – but not first thing in the morning when a dew is very common, rather mid-day assessments in order to ascertain if there was a prolonged dew which is more likely to allow disease development
3. **Percent of plant with symptoms** – not the amount of disease on the plant, but the percentage of plants assessed that have some symptoms
4. **5 day weather forecast** – usually the most difficult to predict, but there are many sources of forecasts, and it is important to gather as much information as possible.

Other key points:

- Inspect the same areas of the field each time in order to assess disease development over time. It is extremely important to note that scouting using the scorecard requires non-destructive assessment, if you injure plants in the area of assessment, there is greater chance of disease development with those plants.
- Assess in more than one area of the field in order to be confident in the assessment
- Ratings should be done twice a week, or more frequently if there is a change in the weather
- Scorecard ratings of 65 points or greater may warrant a fungicide application. If the score is 65 but the disease is not yet present, it may be beneficial to wait until the next rating to see if the rating has increased to a point where a spray application is recommended.

A copy of the scorecard is attached to this e-mail.

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### **Optimizing IMIs**

The cool wet weather makes it difficult to spray when conditions are ideal, but there are some concerns when spraying imidazolonone herbicides. This is a reminder that it may be beneficial to wait for warmer weather to spray for weeds in your peas or Clearfield lentils.

#### *Watchouts/warnings for all IMI products*

- **Avoid spraying when a risk of frost is in the forecast – a near frost event is considered +5°C or lower (minimum daily temperature).**
- Best practice is to wait 3 days after a near frost event before spraying to ensure weeds and crop are actively growing and optimal efficacy can be obtained.
- Activity on all weeds may be reduced under drought conditions as weeds must be actively growing to optimize control.
- Always refer to the manufacturer's product label for specific information on crop staging, weeds controlled, and application information.

Research conducted by Leah Fedoruk and Steve Shirliffe, at the University of Saskatchewan, in 2006 and 2007 investigated the optimal weed control timing and herbicide to maximize weed control and lentil yield. The first experiment investigated the critical period of weed control (CPWC) for lentil. The CPWC was found to commence at the five node stage and continue to the ten node stage. The second experiment investigated Odyssey, Solo and Sencor + Poast Ultra applied at two application times to determine the best herbicide for the CPWC. The results indicated that Odyssey or Solo applied at the six node stage resulted in the overall lowest weed biomass and highest lentil yield compared to application at the two node stage. These results combined with label recommendations, indicate that Odyssey and Solo could be applied at or just before the five to six node stage to maximize lentil yield and minimize weed biomass.

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### **An 'App' for Hoppers**

Growers with iPhones will be able to thumb through an on-the-go grasshopper identification "app" produced as part of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. Pulse Canada, SPG, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and the University of Lethbridge have worked together on identifying which grasshopper species are problems and which ones are not. The "Grasshopper Identification" booklet that was produced collaboratively was the initial outcome. Dr. Dan Johnson is now working with Apple on "an app for that". A

prototype is being developed that will allow growers to stand in the field and flip through hopper photos on an iPhone, matching photos with what they see in their fields.

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## **Upcoming Tour Dates**

### **June 22**

The first southern Alberta Crop Walk is scheduled for June 22, starting at 8:45 am. Meet at the Lethbridge Research Centre Visitor Parking Lot. The Research Centre is 1 km east of Lethbridge on Secondary Highway #512 (Goal Road). For more information contact: Ross McKenzie (ARD) at 403-381-5842 or Ken Coles (SARA) at 403-381-5118.

### **June 23**

APG Zone 3 Pea Ascochyta workshop will be held in Westlock starting at 9 am. Learn how to scout for disease in peas, and how to manage them. More details to follow on the APG website.

### **July 6, 7 or 8 (Pick one day)**

SARA Diagnostic Field School - Lethbridge

Featured topics: Energy Use in Tillage Systems (comparing pulses and canola), Inter-row Seeding, Bio-mass Production, Winter Pulses, Agronomy, Pests, Variety Demonstrations and more.

To register, contact Elizabeth (403) 345-6550 or [sara-research@platinum.ca](mailto:sara-research@platinum.ca).

### **July 14 & 15, 2010**

Integrated Crop Management Field School – Olds College

What's the diagnosis? - Perfect your skills in crop management and diagnostics with this field-based workshop. Come one or both days to join specialists from Olds College and industry to discuss the current issues you are facing. Contact Nancy at 1-800-661-6537 ext. 4677.

### **July 21, 2010**

Battle River Research Group - Stettler tour at 9:30 am with the Castor tour at 1:30 pm. Contact the BRRG at 1-866-828-6774 for more details.

### **July 27 and 28, 2010**

Seed & Soil Expo – Didsbury

This year's Expo has expanded to encompass over 130 acres, with seven half-acre pulse plots featuring green and yellow peas, as well as soybean, lentil and fababean plots, the new Cruiser Maxx Pulses® seed treatment, a new foliar treatment for mitigating yellowing from herbicide and a live swathing demonstration. For more information, or to register for the event, please call Pat at 403-888-2050 or inquire with your local Crop Production Services retail location.

### **July 27, 2010**

Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association – MD of Greenview Tour

COST: \$20 Tour, Lunch and Refreshment Included

For more information and to pre-register for the tour, please call the SARDA office in Falher at 780-837-2900.

**July 28, 2010**

North Peace Applied Research Association Annual Field Tour - Manning

For more information or to pre-register call Nora Paulovich or Jana Ungarian at 780-836-3354.

**August 4, 2010**

Battle River Research Group - Viking tour at 9:30 am. Contact the BRRG at 1-866-828-6774 for more details.

**August 5, 2010**

Battle River Research Group – Killam tour at 9:30 am. Contact the BRRG at 1-866-828-6774 for more details.

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