



THE PULSE AGRONOMY NETWORK
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY



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In this issue:

- Downy Mildew Re-Appears
- Tour Listings

Downy Mildew Re-appears in Central Alberta Peas

Kan-Fa Chang, Research Plant Pathologist, Alberta Agriculture and Food

A disease survey conducted by Kan-Fa Chang in 2008 concluded that downy mildew incidence was much more severe in central Alberta in 2008 than in 2004 or in 2006. This was not surprising, because frequent rain showers and low temperatures made conditions ideal for development and spread of the disease in May and June. With a cool but relatively dry spring in 2009, it may have been too dry for downy mildew in the past few weeks. Recent rains in many areas have changed all of that; there is improved yield potential but also a greater potential for downy mildew development.

Dr. Chang reports that downy mildew has been found at the experimental site at Mannville (about 20 km west of Vermilion) last Wednesday, and that symptoms were also present in another 4 pea fields in the Mannville area. Dr. Chang will be starting a downy mildew disease survey starting next week. Growers are asked to pay attention to this disease and if the disease is detected in a field, please let us know so that the field can be assessed for disease incidence or severity.

Some quick notes about downy mildew:

- The disease has been recorded in central Alberta every year since 2004.
- Downy mildew of pea is a fungal disease caused by *Peronospora viciae*. The fungus overwinters on infected seeds, plant debris and in the soil for many years making the disease very difficult to control.
- In the case of very mild and local infection, upper sides of leaves may show chlorotic spot and fungal mycelia and conidia form on the lower sides of the leaves.
- In severe cases of infection, above-ground portions of plants can be fully loaded with fungal mycelia and spores, particularly in the lower leaves. These appear as distinctive grayish appearance. When the disease affects young seedlings, systemic symptoms may develop. Often young leaves become distorted and floral structures fail to form. In one field near Mannville in 2008, approximately 10-20% of plants or tillers died 2-3 weeks after showing systemic symptoms when conditions turned hot and dry.

- Cultural practices such as using clean seed, long rotations of more than five years between pea crops, and deep tillage have been shown to reduce downy mildew incidence. Infected plants should be collected and burned.
 - There are no foliar fungicides registered for controlling the disease in Canada.
 - Growers are encouraged to check crops carefully, especially the lower sides of the leaves. Unfortunately at this point there are few recommendations for management of this disease.
 - Currently, Dr. Kan-Fa Chang, pulse pathologist at Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), is conducting a project on control strategies and evaluation of pea cultivars for resistance to downy mildew. This project is supported by the APGC, ACAAF and ARD.
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Tour Listings

July 14 & 15, 2009 - Integrated Crop Management Field School, Olds College

Olds College is hosting its Integrated Crop Management Field School to help producers perfect their skills. July 14 will feature Forage Management and July 15 will feature Field Crop Agronomy.

One Day: \$149 GST; Both Days: \$249 GST

Contact Nancy at 1-800-661-6537 ext. 4677

July 17, 2009 - Battle River Research Group - Castor Plot Tour

Location: Kevin James farm 12 miles east of Hwy 36 on Hwy 599

Event Details: Meet at 9:30 AM

Contact BRRG for more information 1 866 828-6774

July 21, 2009 - CDC Saskatoon Plant Science Field Day

Crop Development Centre – Plant Sciences Field Day

Kernen Crop Research Farm (Hwy 41 and Blackley Road), Saskatchewan

Morning and afternoon concurrent sessions:

1. wheat, barley, oats, flax and weeds
2. peas, lentils, chickpeas, winter wheat and agronomy

Registration 8:30-9:30; Tours 9:30-4:00; Lunch 12:00

July 21, 2009 - Indian Head Crop Management Field Day

Indian Head Research Farm, Indian Head, SK.

8:30 am – 5:00 PM

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch and supper)

Registration: www.iharf.ca or call 306-695-4200.

July 21, 2009 - CARA Summer Project Tour

11:30 am – 4:00 pm

Hanna, Alberta

Topics: Regional Variety Trials, Camelina, Perennial Forage Trial, Cattle Handling Equipment

Starting with lunch at Fox Lake Park- 3 km west of Hanna from corner of Palliser Trail and Fox Lake Trail
Call 403-664-3777 for more information.

July 22, 2009 - Bow Island Sub-station Field Day

Hosted by Alberta Agriculture, Zone 1 Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission and Reduced Tillage Linkages.

Meet at the Substation Field Building at 9:00 AM. From Bow Island, travel west on Highway #3 for about 3 km, turn south on Secondary Highway #879 (Foremost Highway) for 10 km. Just after the Spitz Sunflower Plant, is the Substation Field Building (White Trailers) on the west side of the highway.

Research issues that will be discussed include:

1. Special Crops Research Trials - Dr. Manjula Bandara, Special Crops Research Scientist and Dr. Parthiba Balasubramanian, Bean Breeder
2. Irrigation Management Research -cereal, oilseed and pulse crops - Ted Harms, Soil and Water Specialist
3. Insect Management Research - Scott Meers, Insect Management Specialist
4. Irrigated Crop Agronomy Research and Dryland Crop Rotations - Dr. Ross McKenzie, Agronomy Research Scientist

A "Beef on a Bun" Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for lunch however, registration would be appreciated. To register, contact Judy Chow at 403-381-5170 in Lethbridge or by e-mail at judy.chow@gov.ab.ca.

Afternoon Off-Station Tours:

Producers can attend one of several afternoon tours after lunch that will depart at 1:00 PM.

1. Irrigated soft white spring wheat variety trials at Crooyman Farms - Dr. Harpinder Randhawa, Soft Wheat Breeder and Andy Kovacs, Ex.Director, Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission
2. Dryland agronomy trials at the Terry Doran Farm: ESN trials with wheat, barley and canola; agronomy trials with wheat and triticale - Dr. Ross McKenzie
3. View pulse crop fields in the area - Tentative.

For further information contact Ross McKenzie, Agronomy Research Scientist at 403-381-5842 or Don Wentz with Reduced Tillage Linkages at 403-381-5845

July 23, 2009 - SARDA Annual Tour, MD of Big Lakes, Alberta

Morning Tour - High Prairie, Ag. Grounds 8:30 am registration, 9:00 am bus departs

Topics will include Weed identification, grass identification, forage, cereal and pulse trials.

Cost: \$20 for tour, lunch and refreshment

For more information and to pre-register, please call the SARDA office at 780-837-2900

July 28th, 2009 - Battle River Research Group - Viking Plot Tour

Starts at 9:30 am

Meet at Lesfrud Seed Farms plot - 13 miles north of Viking on Hwy 36. There is a second site with co-operator Don Kline to tour as well.

July 28, 2009 - Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Summer Tour, Fort Kent

July 30, 2009 - SARDA Annual Tour, Northern Sunrise County, Alberta

Cost: \$20 for tour, lunch and refreshment

For more information and to pre-register, please call the SARDA office at 780-837-2900

July 30, 2009 Lacombe Field Day

\$20 registration Before July 24; call Loree 403-782-8114

July 31, 2009 - Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Summer Tour, St. Paul

August 5 & 6, 2009 Seed and Agronomy Expo, Didsbury, Alberta

½ mile north on Hwy 2A from the intersection of Hwy 2A and 582

Parkland Agri Services is hosting the Seed and Agronomy Expo. Demonstrations will showcase new and old varieties, inoculant and fertility effects, fungicide response, and crop response to seeding rate and fungicide application. The expo will also highlight agronomy in other crops. Attendance is limited. Register by calling Pat at 403-888-2050

August 5, 2009 - Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Summer Tour, Lac La Biche

August 5th, 2009 - Battle River Research Group - Killam Tour

*** Date changed from July 21 due to slow crop development.

Meet at 9:30 am.

Meet at plot location, east of co-operator Darrell Holmstrom farmyard, 3 miles north of Killam Auction Mart (west side of Killam).

Featuring new crops and cultivars, information on silage and swath grazing trials.

Phone Alvin or Jeanne at 1-866-828-6774 to register for tours or if you have any questions.

Previous PAN Bulletins

View Previous PAN Bulletins at:

<http://www.pulse.ab.ca/ForProducers/Publications/PulseAgronomyNetwork/tabid/125/Default.aspx>

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