



PAN ALL PULSE BULLETIN #24 – AUGUST 19, 2005

What's in the PAN -

- • Next year starts now...
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Next year starts now... Getting fields ready for peas – managing residue.

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Benefits of Direct Seeded Peas

- • Pulse crops are a critical component of many direct seeders crop rotation. Peas are tolerant of cooler soil temperatures and can be seeded early. The crops minimal fertilizer requirements allow for direct seeding with single shoot air drills and modified hoe drills.
- • Standing stubble catches more snow and conserves moisture, enabling shallower seeding into moisture and subsequent earlier emergence. Peas that emerge quickly are more competitive with weeds.
- • Anchored stubble dramatically reduces the risk of soil erosion and potential crop damage. Standing stubble also reduces the wind's drying effect on seedbed moisture. Erosion risks related to rolling your pea field are virtually eliminated in a low disturbance direct seeding system.
- • More info - Getting Started in Direct Seeding
<http://www.reducedtillage.ca/gettingstarted.pdf>

Selecting Your Stubble

- • Avoid planting peas in fields that have heavy perennial weed pressure, herbicide residues or high residual nitrogen levels. Perennial weed control in field peas is best achieved with pre-harvest glyphosate *in the year prior to peas*. Check out these links for detailed information about pre-harvest and desiccation:
- • More info – Preharvest applications of glyphosate for weed control and harvest management
<http://www.reducedtillage.ca/preharvest.pdf>
- • More info – Perennial weed control in direct seeding
<http://www.reducedtillage.ca/Perennial%20weed%20control%20apr%2021%2004%20final.PDF>
- • More info - Winter annual weed control
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex176/\\$file/519-5.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex176/$file/519-5.pdf?OpenElement)

Managing Your Crop Residue

- • Successful direct seeding begins in the fall with good residue management. Managing straw and chaff at harvest time is the key factor in how smoothly seeding will be the following year and how even the crop will germinate, emerge and mature.

- • Anchored stubble is easier to seed directly into than dislodged stubble. Remember – the first time through is the easiest.
- • Chaff must be managed during harvest. Ideally chaff should be spread over the entire cutting width. Chaff that is not spread will contribute to cooler soil temperatures and poor seedbed conditions. Post harvest harrowing is not very effective at redistributing chaff.
- • More info – Residue management for successful direct seeding.
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex1205/\\$file/570-4.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex1205/$file/570-4.pdf?OpenElement)
- • More info – Handling difficult crop residue conditions
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex174/\\$file/519-2.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex174/$file/519-2.pdf?OpenElement)

Chopping & Spreading Straw

- • The combine allows the best chance to manage your straw and chaff. The more evenly it is spread - the easier seeding will be the following spring. Straight cutting cereal crops and leaving tall stubble will increase combine efficiency and reduce the workload of your chopper and spreader. Selecting shorter varieties will further reduce the volume of cereal straw produced. Harvesting when the straw is dry makes chopping much easier.
- • Combines should be unloaded on the go, or operators should pull out of the swath to unload. This eliminates straw piles that can effect seeding operations and crop emergence.

Harrowing the Straw

- • Heavy harrowing after harvest will further break up straw and help distribute it over the field. Heavy harrowing is best done under warm, dry conditions. Increasing harrowing speed can further aid the spreading action, but it also increases the amount of stubble knocked down or dislodged. Spring winds may drift the loose straw on harrowed fields

Scouting in the Stubble

- • Scouting for weeds in standing stubble requires getting down on your hands and knees and really looking in the residue. Weed seedlings are often present in higher numbers than are apparent from the road.
- • Winter annual weeds should be closely monitored following harvest as they are hard to control if allowed to over winter. Good weed control in the fall followed by a pre-seeding application of glyphosate will provide your peas with a clean start in the spring.

We encourage you to share the PAN information with others. In return, we ask that you list the source as the Pulse Agronomy Network.

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