



THE PULSE AGRONOMY NETWORK
PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY



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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, gathering results from 19 out of 20 possible sites (one site was hailed out). The field testing was done on fields with 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, then there is greater chance of disease development in 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.

Drought Stress in Field Pea

As the season progresses with less than ideal amounts of precipitation in many areas, there is concern about the yield potential for field peas. Dr. Al Slinkard suggests that crops with good plant density still have the potential to provide adequate yields and provides the following comments about flowering and yield potential in drought situations...

The first 5 or 6 nodes are differentiated in the mature seed, meaning that no pea variety will flower before the 6th or 7th node stage. After that, the pea plant will produce a new node about every 3 days, provided it is not under extreme heat, drought or cold stress. Pea plants have a fairly strong (not as strong as lentil) indeterminate growth habit and can recover quite a bit if a prolonged cool, wet period occurs no later than the 4th node before flowering. Also, 3 consecutive days with temperatures above 30 C after flowering starts will result in cessation of apical growth (no more pods will be initiated) within a few days. (Peas can't stand high temperatures after they start flowering). Also, under drought stress, the internode length will be much reduced (short plants).

Drought stressed pea plants (short) will produce little forage or seed without a prolonged cool, wet period (STARTING IMMEDIATELY!). Short, drought -stressed pea plants at this time of year will ripen early and produce a maximum of one tonne of seed per hectare (15 bushels/acre), unless it rains immediately, and assuming that the farmer has a direct-cut header and reel that will pick up the short plants completely.

AFSC Response to Drought

- In response to the drought conditions, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) has allocated resources to respond to the most severely affected areas.
- AFSC is presently adjusting claims and is proactively implementing procedures to deal with potentially large volumes of claims so as to minimize delays to producer

management decisions. This has included moving adjusting resources to areas most severely affected.

- Work is currently underway to determine area yields in the most severely affected areas. Should dry conditions continue and claim volumes increase, producers in these areas may have the option of accepting the average area yield assessment and having acres released over the phone without an inspection, or carry through with a pre-harvest inspection.

Alternate Use

- AFSC's AgriInsurance programs provide producers with the flexibility to put their crops to alternate uses including grazing, silaging or spraying out the crop to conserve moisture and fertilizer reserves.
- It is important for insured producers that want to put a crop to an alternate use to contact their AFSC District Office before doing anything. Producers are asked to call their District Office 5 days prior to putting their crops to an alternate use. This allows AFSC to manage their adjusting resources and to continue to provide timely client service.
- AFSC adjusters will inspect the acres and appraise a yield potential at the time of the inspection. AFSC values the potential production and will not appraise fields at zero production if there is a potential for a harvestable crop.
- Insured producers that plan to harvest their crops do not need to do anything until after harvest. Any production loss can be assessed at that time through a post-harvest claim.

For more information contact your AFSC District Office directly or call 1-888-786-7475.

Faba bean fields needed for disease survey

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission is funding a disease survey that will quantify the incidence and severity of root rot in Alberta faba bean fields. The survey will be conducted on 30 commercial faba bean fields. If you know of a producer who has a faba bean field that could be included in the survey please contact our office. Please note that we are looking for faba bean fields of any variety.

Alberta Weed Survey 2009

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, and the Agricultural Service Boards is currently contacting farmers to seek participation in a province-wide weed survey, which will be carried out in July of this year. The objective of this study is to assess trends in weed populations, such as the emergence of new problem weeds, shifts in weed distribution, and changes in the composition of weed populations in response to current management practices. The data generated will be compared to previous data sets, obtained over several decades. Results will be made available on the Government of Alberta - Agriculture and Rural Development web site in the spring of 2010. The project is led by Dr. Chris Neeser at the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks. In case you receive a call from us, your collaboration would be greatly appreciated.

Tour Listings

July 7, 8, or 9 (Pick one day), SARA Diagnostic Field School, Lethbridge, Alberta

Diagnostic Field School for producers. Featured topics will include:

- Winter Peas, Lentils, Barley and Triticale
- Contans (Bio-Control of Sclerotinia)
- Nutraceutical for the control of Malaria
- Pests
- Agronomy
- More to be determined...

For more information contact

Ken Coles, 403-381-5118 or sara.research@connectcomm.ca

Chris Procyk, 403-381-5118 or chrisprocyk@hotmail.com

To register contact:

Elizabeth Tokariuk, 403-345-6550 or sara-research@platinum.ca

July 8, 2009 - CARA Crop Nutrient Field Day

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Featuring Agronomists and Industry reps

Field scale demo of Fertilizer, Micronutrients, and Compost

Plots of Fertilizer applications and Seed Treatments

From Chinook, Alberta 5 km west along Hwy 9 and 2 km south (watch for signs)

From Youngstown, Alberta 14 km east along Hwy 9 and 2 km south

Pre-registration appreciated at 403-664-3777

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 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

Cost: \$20 for tour, lunch and refreshment

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

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

Previous PAN Bulletins

View Previous PAN Bulletins at:

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

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