

Field Crop Report



Ontario

Cereals: Peter Johnson

Winter wheat: Early wheat fields in the southwest are at flag leaf (GS 37-39). Wet soils have prevented herbicide application in many fields. Bromoxynil/MCPA products and Infinity are the safest herbicides for application at flag. In fields without red clover, pre-harvest glyphosate is an option. Yield loss associated with weeds present now has already occurred; any herbicide applications are to facilitate harvest only. Disease levels remain low, with mildew and septoria in the bottom of the canopy. Timing is right for first fungicide applications in many fields. Fungicide applied at this stage will increase yields more than earlier applications. Spring cereals It is now too late for spring cereal seeding in all but the most northern areas. Shift to soybeans. Early cereals are at tillering stage (GS 21-22). Emergence looks excellent. Weed control should be accomplished before tillering. Early nitrogen (N) applications should already be applied.

Forages: Joel Bagg/Jack Kyle

Forage growth is 7-10 days behind normal. First-cut yield expectations are variable in some areas, with winter-injured, older, and fall-harvested stands showing reduced potential. Dairy haylage harvest will be in full swing in many parts of the province the week of May 26th. Generally 1st-cut alfalfa haylage is targeted at an optimum 40% NDF to balance digestible energy with adequate fibre. “Scissors-cut” field sampling and rapid laboratory analysis, and “PEAQ sticks” are useful tools to predict optimal harvest dates <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=2610> . If practical, delayed harvest of stressed fields will improve plant health and yield. With a cool spring thematurity of grasses is usually more than alfalfa. The most advanced fall rye is at boot stage; triticale is slightly behind. Many dairy farmers target harvest at flag-leaf for nutrient quality. Delaying to early-head will reduce digestible energy, but increase yield <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=5241>. Some winter damaged alfalfa fields are being harvested early to plant to silage corn. Planting as soon as possible and adequate moisture are essential to successful yields www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages/corn_earlyhay.htm. **Pasture** grass is advancing quickly with orchardgrass now starting to head. Using a quick rotation to graze all paddocks before grass becomes mature is important. In a rotational system look to the last paddock in the rotation and adjust rotation speed to arrive at it before grasses head out. To maintain good growth throughout summer, do not overgraze. Leaving 7-10 cm (or more) green material will allow the plants to recover quickly. Applying 40 kg N/ha after the 1st or 2nd rotation will stimulate growth. Now is the time to evaluate your pastures and determine if extra forage will be required during the grazing season. If you will need to source extra forage, consider planting an annual crop for grazing <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub811/3species.htm#annual>.

Soybeans: Horst Bohner

Soybean seeding has been slow with only about 5% of soybeans seeded in western Ontario as of May 22. Eastern Ontario has made better progress with about 50% seeded. Some fields which received N intended for corn or winter wheat are now being switched to soybeans. There is the concern that N fertilizer can lead to excessive top growth and poor pod set. Ontario research has shown that N fertilizer has little impact on soybean yields in most situations. The soybean plant will use the most available form of N first (available soil N or fertilizer). Once this N has been used it will then start nodulation to fix N from the air. The fertilizer N will be used before nodulation will occur, so nodulation will be delayed. Under extreme conditions there can be plant lodging and increased white mould in these fields. It is recommended that seeding rates be reduced 10-20% and wider rows (15” or wider) be used in fields that have received N fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer is not recommended for “normal” soybean fields since there is no economic return.

Canola: Brian Hall

Canola 50-60% of the intended acres have been planted. Late-planted canola still has excellent yield potential. Maturity is delayed by ½ the number of days seeding is delayed. Canola planted the week of May 19th is expected to mature the first week of Sept., and be ready to harvest 7-10 days later. Place seed ¾ inch deep into a firm moist seedbed for rapid even emergence, even flowering and maturity. Warmer temperatures and wind can quickly dry out the top 1 inch of soil, often causing poor & uneven emergence. Weather during flowering and pod fill has the biggest yield impact. Canola planted now may require 1-2 foliars for swede midge. Monitoring has begun, though no catches have been reported. Check updates on the Ontario Canola Growers Association website. Soil moisture and temperature will speed emergence of overwintering midge. **Edible Beans:** Plant high quality certified seed with excellent germination. Lower germ seed often has reduced vigour resulting in uneven emergence and reduced stands even with higher seeding rates. Recommended rates for white or black beans in 15” rows is 150,000 seeds/ac (3–4 seeds/ft of row), 110,000 in 21” rows (3.5-4.5 seeds/ft.) and 90,000 (4.5-5 seeds/ft.) in 30” rows. Dry beans require considerable moisture for germination. Plant ½ inch deep into moist soil. Emergence problems due to non-uniform depth result in uneven maturity. The potential 10% yield advantage of narrow rows by using a drill is lost if accurate depth control cannot be achieved. Crusting is the major risk of rolling or packing and should only be done when absolutely necessary.

Corn: Greg Stewart

Corn planting progress in southwestern Ontario has been slow with many areas receiving >40 mm rain the past week. Planted acreage improves moving east with 75% completion in eastern Ontario. Provincially planting stands at 40%. Switching from full season hybrids is in play now. Reduce hybrid ratings by 100 CHU/wk of delay in short season areas (< 2800 CHU); in 2800-3200 CHU areas still plant full season hybrids if planting can occur by May 25, in some situations wet soils may have already eliminated planting before May 25 so switch to be ready for next planting window. Areas >3200 CHU should plant full season hybrids until the end of May. Considerations on hybrid switching: 1) OCC performance trial data (yield moisture) www.gocorn.net. Identify compromise of less CHU requirements with only modest yield reduction. 2) Consider company data details on CHU to silking, test weight, and standability. 3) Switch first fields with more difficult fall harvest options - poorly drained, difficult access. 4) Do I have high moisture corn options or relatively low drying costs that allow me to plant full season hybrids further into planting season than average?

Weather Summary



Location	May 14 – May 20	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall (mm)	Heat Units CHU	Total Since May 1	
		Max	Min			Rain	CHU
Outdoor Farm Show	2014	15.5	6.6	47.3	66.2	68.5	205.2
	30 Yr. Avg.	18.4	6.9	21.4	92.7	54.1	232.3
	2014	16.7	7.5	31.2	83.4	80.2	278.5
Windsor	30 Yr. Avg.	19.8	8.3	16.1	110.6	46.2	277.0
	2014	18.1	6.1	63.8	85.3	93.2	242.8
Trenton	30 Yr. Avg.	17.9	6.2	17.7	85.2	50.9	212.9
	2014	14.8	4.8	22.9	61.7	56.8	193.3
Mount Forest	30 Yr. Avg.	17.5	5.9	21.9	80.0	55.6	198.6
	2014	15.8	6.7	43.7	72.2	75.2	231.2
London	30 Yr. Avg.	18.5	7.2	21.7	94.9	53.9	237.5
	2014	17.4	6.2	41.5	82.6	80.9	218.5
Hamilton	30 Yr. Avg.	18.1	7.1	19.0	92.0	50.8	230.6
	2014	20.9	9.1	36.0	115.4	77.7	267.1
Ottawa	30 Yr. Avg.	18.6	6.7	19.2	92.9	51.4	236.3
	2014	15.2	4.8	35.4	62.7	71.1	185.5
Elora	30 Yr. Avg.	17.7	6.2	20.9	84.0	54.2	207.4
	2014	18.0	5.4	47.3	89.4	65.0	234.1
Peterborough	30 Yr. Avg.	17.9	6.0	18.7	84.0	52.8	212.0

For more information please contact the CropLine at
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