

# Field Crop Report



## Canola/Edible Beans: Brian Hall

Planting is 90% complete in the south and 50% in the north. Heavy rains in several areas has caused crusting and emergence issues. Check stand emergence 10-14 days after planting. An acceptable target stand is 3-5 plants/ft<sup>2</sup>. Flea beetles are emerging from overwintering. Begin scouting emerged canola every 2-3 days for flea beetles. Threshold for control is 25% leaf feeding. Swede midge are at threshold numbers at Elora, and none at locations further north. Begin monitoring swede midge traps every 2-3 days once canola has 1 true leaf. Initial threshold for control is 20 midge total per 4 traps. Don't wait until damage is visible! Updates on a province wide midge monitoring project will be posted at <http://www.ontariocanologrowers.ca/>.

## Cereals: Peter Johnson

Early fields in the southwest are heading! Apply fusarium sprays shortly. Timing fungicides will be a challenge due to the unevenness of the crop. Target Day 5 of the earliest 25% of the field, the latest possible timing for fusarium control. Some heads will not be emerged, but earliest heading plants have the highest yield potential. The majority of yield increase is from leaf disease control even if all heads are not emerged. Sulphur deficiency continues so where needed apply 34L/ha (3 gals/ac) of ammonium thiosulphate by itself. Adult cereal leaf beetles (CLB) are close to threshold in traditional areas. So scout! One CLB/stem warrants control. Where virus or nitrogen deficiency is evident between tile runs on heavy clay soils consider 34kg/ha (30 lbs/ac) of added N. There is no control for virus. Early spring cereals have tillered well, with up to 6 tillers per plant in lush fields. Stem elongation is beginning. Later fields have just been planted. Early fields should have N and weed control applied.

## Corn: Greg Stewart

Corn planting ranges from 30% completed in some parts of the south west to 95% in eastern Ontario; provincially 70% of the intended acres are now planted. Switching to shorter season hybrids has been taking place in areas less than 3200 CHU. Some switching from corn to soybeans (approx. 5% of intended corn acres) is also underway. Early planted corn (May 7) is at 2-3 leaf stage, some crusting and emergence issues are being reported on medium and heavy textured soils. Crust busting with rotary hoes, harrows, vertical tillage coulters, etc. can improve conditions. Damage to corn is generally negligible unless shoot is broken below the soil deeper than 1.25 cm (.5 inches). Nitrogen is being applied to emerged corn. Guidelines for post-emerge UAN application: 1) UAN (fan nozzle) and herbicide – max. 2 leaf corn, 2) UAN (fan nozzle) no herbicide – max. 3 leaf corn, 3) UAN (streamer nozzle) – max. 6 leaf corn.

## Forages/Pastures: Joel Bagg/Jack Kyle

**Forages:** First-cut dairy haylage harvest is delayed and just starting in southern Ontario, but should be in full swing by June 2<sup>nd</sup>. With cooler spring weather, grass growth/maturity is more advanced relative to the alfalfa. Alfalfa is more than 10 days behind normal, while grasses are heading. First-cut yield potential is quite variable depending on the stand, but looks disappointing in some areas. In areas where soils are soft and wet, operating harvest equipment before the soil is firm enough can result in permanent wheel traffic damage to alfalfa crowns that impact the life of the stand. Although respiration, harvest, fermentation, storage and spoilage losses are largely invisible, they are very costly. Rapid wilting with wide swaths minimizes respiration losses (<http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=7181>). Reduce fermentation dry matter losses (shrink) by using a proven haylage inoculant (<http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=7159>). Fill, pack, cover and seal horizontal silos quickly to keep them anaerobic (<http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=7155>). Seeding sorghum and sorghum-sudangrass to supplement lower expected forage supplies is underway. These warm season annuals can yield well when managed with good agronomics and harvest management. (Forage Sorghum-Sudan Grass <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/98-043.htm>).

**Pastures:** Orchardgrass is starting to head and should be grazed immediately to maintain quality and stimulate new leaf development. Move to new paddocks when they have grazed half of the available forage. High stock densities assist with weed control. Monitor cattle on pasture looking for problems such as grass tetany which can develop when animals have access to rapidly growing fresh grass (<http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub19/7life.htm>).

## Soybeans: Horst Bohner

Seeding continues to be delayed in many areas, although some growers have managed to finish. Most areas of the province still have considerable acreage unplanted. Many growers have not been able to plant any soybeans to date. There are no changes to management necessary for soybean seeded before June 10<sup>th</sup>. After June 10<sup>th</sup> increasing seeding rates by 10% can help achieve higher yields. Switching to narrow rows will also provide more yield potential with later planted fields. Target increased seeding rates to appropriate fields, generally those with lower yield potential. For fields with high yield potential that produce tall/lush plants don't to increase the seeding rates due to the increased potential for diseases. There is no reason to switch to lower maturity varieties at this date. Stick with the original plan despite the current date. For each three week delay in planting there is only a one week delay in harvest maturity come fall. There is a 3 to 1 ratio in planting date to fall harvest maturity.

Location		Temperature (°C)		Rainfall	Heat Units	Total Since May 1	
May 21 – 27		Max	Min	(mm)	CHU	Rain	CHU
Outdoor Farm Show	2014	22.2	9.7	10.1	119.9	78.2	325.1
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.7	8.3	19.3	109.5	73.4	341.7
Windsor	2014	25.2	13.5	6.2	164.0	87.2	446.2
	30 Yr. Avg.	20.9	9.4	16.9	124.0	63.1	401.0
Trenton	2014	22.8	11.5	8.3	142.6	101.3	385.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.1	7.8	17.3	103.6	68.2	316.5
Mount Forest	2014	21.2	8.7	0.7	113.5	54.9	308.6
	30 Yr. Avg.	18.7	7.3	20.2	97.4	75.8	295.9
London	2014	22.4	9.6	4.4	123.7	81.9	357.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.7	8.4	19.4	110.6	73.3	348.1
Hamilton	2014	23.8	10.8	5.5	140.7	80.3	361.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.5	8.5	16.1	109.9	66.9	340.5
Ottawa	2014	23.5	11.4	5.8	145.8	84.3	414.6
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.9	8.7	16.8	113.7	68.2	350.0
Elora	2014	21.7	8.8	0.1	115.8	70.4	302.4
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.3	7.6	18.3	103.5	72.5	310.9
Peterborough	2014	24.0	10.9	11.0	143.8	75.1	377.4
	30 Yr. Avg.	19.1	7.6	17.5	101.8	70.3	313.8

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