

# Field Crop Report



## Canola: Brian Hall

Planting is 70 % complete in southern areas, and freezing overnight temperatures has kept most growers in northern areas out of the field. Cold temperatures are delaying emergence, with early planted canola taking 14-21 days to emerge. There have been several reports of low emergence and frost damage to very early planted canola. Begin to check stand emergence 10-14 days after planting. Young plants are vulnerable to flea beetles, seedling diseases, cutworms and if they are struggling through cool temperatures, frost or wind damage. Patchy emergence could be a sign of insect damage or seedling disease issues. Seed treatments for flea beetles could begin to run out 3-4 weeks after planting. An acceptable target stand is 4-5 plants/ft<sup>2</sup>. Scout emerged canola every 2-3 days for flea beetles.

## Cereals: Peter Johnson / Scott Banks

Freeze injury is a significant concern in the winter cereal crop with the very low temperatures of April 27/28/29. Leaf damage is significant in most fields, but it is head damage that is critical. Split stems in frost prone areas. Heads should be bright green to yellow. Discoloured or water soaked appearance of heads indicates death of the head and zero yield potential. See <http://bit.ly/agi9Zn>. Scouting to date indicates head damage only in the most frost prone areas, but SCOUT! Very little herbicide has been applied. Winter annuals and dandelions are past control. Disease pressure remains low in many fields, with powdery mildew just beginning to show. Spring cereals appear to have tolerated the snow and cold temperatures well. Moisture was welcomed on fields planted shallow or overworked with dry soil. Herbicide application timing should be now on early planted fields. Disease pressure remains very low.

## Corn: Greg Stewart

Corn planting is 20-90% complete depending on the area of the province; provincially planting is estimated at 65%. Some of the early (i.e. April 5-15) planted corn had emerged and the cold temperatures of April 27, 28 & 29 froze the above ground tissue. However, to date, growing point and seed integrity remains high in the early planted corn. Although many areas received some light rain over the past week producers need to remain conscious of soil moisture conservation, avoiding excessive tillage and packing or rolling where possible. A planting time or early post-planting nitrogen recommendation for 2012 based on the Ontario N Calculator: loam soil, 3000 CHUs, previous crop winter wheat (straw removed) UAN at \$400/t and an expected corn price of \$4.75/bushel is 143 lbs N/acre (161 kg N/ha). Visit [gocorn.net](http://gocorn.net) for N recommendations.

## Forages/Pastures: Joel Bagg/Jack Kyle

**Forages:** Some frost damage to alfalfa occurred again in late-April, mostly in areas in SW Ontario. Some of these fields were also frost damaged in late-March. Regrowth of these fields will likely occur, but maturity will be delayed and yields reduced. <http://bit.ly/omafraforage6>. Once emerged, watch new seedlings closely for annual broadleaf weeds and to determine optimum time of spraying. The risk of injury to alfalfa seedlings is greatly increased when 2,4-DB application is made outside of the first- to the third-trifoliolate stage window. 2,4-DB can suppress legume growth for a period of 2-3 weeks and severe injury can occur under drought or high temperatures. Field experience has demonstrated that reducing the rate of herbicide can reduce the risk of injury to alfalfa seedlings while providing acceptable suppression or control of weed seedlings. Refer to Publication 75, Guide To Weed Control <http://bit.ly/omafraweeds>.

**Pasture:** Pasture growth continues to be modest with cool temperatures and limited moisture until this past week. For optimum pasture performance give the grasses and legumes an opportunity to produce a minimum of 10-12 cm of new growth before turning livestock into a paddock. In an ideal situation each paddock provides one day's forage for the livestock with daily moves to a new paddock. If daily moves are not possible the maximum length of stay in any paddock should be no more than 5 days. Each additional day beyond 1 is will reduce pasture productivity.

## Soybeans: Horst Bohner

Approximately 5% of the overall acreage has been planted. Once fields dry planting will start in earnest. There is no reason to wait at this date even if soil temperatures are cool. The yield benefit of early planting generally outweighs the risk of planting into cold soils. Seeding rate recommendations are significantly lower in some US states. Keep in mind that many of these are based on using a planter and those regions have more heat units than Ontario. Ontario soybean seeding rates were updated a few years ago based on 45 replicated field trials. The most economic seeding rates for Ontario based on experimental data from 2005-2007 are: 194 000 seeds/acre in 7.5" rows. 177 000 seeds/acre in 15" rows seeded with a drill and 165 000 seeds/acre in 15" rows planted with row unit planter. It is possible to achieve high yields with lower seeding rates but plants must be evenly distributed and field conditions ideal. In dry years when plants are short very low plant stands can significantly reduce yields.

## Weather Summary



Location	Apr 25- May 1 2012	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall (mm)	Heat Units CHU	Total Since May 1	
		Max	Min			Rain	CHU
Outdoor	2012	11	-1	8.1	3.5	0.1	3.5
Farm Show	30 Yr. Avg.	15.4	3.8	17.1	8.4	3.1	8.4
Windsor	2012	13.5	3.6	12.1	10.7	1.2	10.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	16	4.8	16.7	10.1	3.1	10.1
Trenton	2012	10.6	-0.4	12.2	4.7	8.3	4.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	14.9	3	13.6	7.9	2.5	7.9
Mount Forest	2012	8.6	-1	7.5	0.8	0.2	0.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	14.4	2.7	14.6	6.3	3.1	6.3
London	2012	11.3	-0.4	7.4	3.1	0.1	3.1
	30 Yr. Avg.	15.4	3.9	17.5	8.2	3.3	8.2
Hamilton	2012	12.4	0.1	5.3	5.4	1.9	5.4
	30 Yr. Avg.	15.2	3.9	13.7	8	2.7	8
Ottawa	2012	9.3	-0.1	6.4	1.7	4.6	1.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	15.6	3.5	14.2	10.6	2.4	10.6
Elora	2012	10	-1.5	10.8	1.3	0	1.3
	30 Yr. Avg.	15	3	15.1	7.2	2.9	7.2
Peterborough	2012	10.7	-0.7	11.2	5.7	4.2	5.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	14.8	2.7	13.8	7.3	2.9	7.3

For more information please contact the CropLine at 1-888-449-0937, [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/croppest](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/croppest), [www.fieldcropnews.com](http://www.fieldcropnews.com)

