



What's NEW in Seed Treatment Regulations for 2018

As soybean and corn harvest continues, both the good and the bad, it is time once again to start thinking about how you will manage your insect pressures in 2018. From August 2017 - August 2018 here are your options as producers:

- 1) DO NOT USE Class 12 seed treatments on any of your seed. This may mean using fungicide only treated seed on your soybeans and/or Fortenza or Lumivia on your corn
- 2) DO USE Class 12 seed treatments on both your corn and soybean seed
 - a) You will need to complete the integrated pest management training course www.ipmcertified.ca/index.cfm/courses/
 - b) You will need to complete a pest assessment form
 - c) You will need to sign a declaration form stating you have considered IPM principles

Starting on August 31st 2017, Dufferin County has phased in the requirement that a professional pest advisor conduct a soil pest assessment, and prepare and sign a report. Make sure you are aware when the professional pest advisor is being phased in for your area. New digital pest assessment forms are available online which allows producers to submit to seed vendors. The new digital form includes a link to AgMaps, which is an online mapping tool, to assist in completing the required sketch portion of the PAR Form. If you have any questions in regards to Class 12 products, best management practices, or course information, please talk to one of our agronomists to find the right solution that will work for you in 2018.

Soil Warrior Strip Tillage

The Soil Warrior is up and running! Many producers aim to improve the precision of our activities on the land, Holmes Agro has begun extensive trialing of the 'Strip Tillage' concept. A 'strip till' implement is a multipurpose tool that is designed to work only the areas of the field, the 'strips', that are essential to the planting of a crop, while applying fertilizer in the intended planting zone of next season's crop. The unit works through approximately 1/3 of the soil surface, leaving the rest untouched to preserve soil structure and moisture. The seed zone, however, is opened up, allowing for faster drying and earlier planting. Advantages to the system include: reduced spring tillage, improved soil structure, reduced erosion, and a more environmental approach to phosphorus management. The surrounding residue and root systems also help make moisture more available during the growing season. Variable rate prescriptions are available and can be made from your grid sample results using our precision ag software and then applied to your field. This will help maximize your fields yield potential through fertility, and in turn providing economical value to your farm.

This service will be available to our grower's starting at \$38/acre for a single rate fertilizer application and \$40/acre for a variable rate application. This machine will be in the Orangeville area until approximately Mid October and then move North to the Stayner area. If you are interested in using the Soil Warrior on your farm, please contact your Holmes Agro Representative.



Do You or Someone You Know Have What It Takes?

Holmes Agro is continuing to grow to meet our customer's needs. We are always looking for employees to help our team. We are looking for both seasonal and fulltime staff in the following roles: Professional Applicators (to operate custom application equipment), Crop Scouts (to support agronomy team), Truck drivers (Both DZ and AZ needed), Plant Operations/Repair and Maintenance (Help lead the plant activities and repair & maintenance), Seasonal plant staff, Customer Service Coordinator to organize and support and coordinate customer service activities. Please check out opportunities at www.holmesagro.com, or Contact Archie Wilson at archie@holmesagro.com or 519-941-0450 office, or 519-504-2856 cell



Still Time for Fall Burndowns

As we move into October and the days get shorter it's time to start thinking about the end of the spray season and winterizing your equipment. Fortunately, we've had some of the best weather all summer in the last couple of weeks which has allowed for an earlier than anticipated soybean harvest in some cases and helping the corn finish up as well. If you haven't completed your fall burndown applications yet, I would encourage you to get at it while the weather still permits. Whether using straight glyphosate or tank mixing with 2-4D, Eragon, or another partner, we need to apply product while the weeds are actively growing and translocating sugars to the root system for winter. Fall applications always work better than spring because of this translocation process which helps carry the chemical to the root of the weed. For quack grass control remember to apply glyphosate at the high end of the rate range which is 1.4-1.5L. If you're fighting with perennial broadleaf weeds such as dandelion, and sow thistle then 1L of glyphosate + ½ liter of 2-4D Ester will do a great job and give faster visible results than glyphosate alone. If the weather gets unsettled just remember the difference in rain fast between 2-4D (4 hours) and glyphosate alone (1 hour). LAS (Liquid Ammonium Sulfate) is an additive that can be used as well which acts as an additional surfactant and also helps to cut the cuticle of waxy weeds and get better penetration of product. If your spraying with high pH water, you may also want to consider adding a pH adjuster like BB5 or LI700. Hard water affects all herbicide performance and glyphosate is no different. If you have any questions or need help with product recommendations speak with someone on our agronomy team.

Fall application of fertilizer – It's all good!

There are some advantages with fall applications in 2017 of both P (phosphorous) and K (potassium) for the 2018 crop. P and K are essential to producing high yields and if crop removal and soil test results indicate the NEED then obviously a plan to FEED needs to be organized.

Some of the advantages of fall P and K application:

- Reduced workload in the spring
- Applications made when field moisture is often lower and less soil compaction by application equipment is expected
- Often times, fertilizer products are better value closer to year's end
- Availability may be improved the following spring – especially in a chisel plowing system because nutrition will get distributed throughout the desired soil profile
- Applications to perennial forage crops will enhance root growth, encourage and nourish root systems stimulating improved winter hardiness and spring vigour.

Although not every situation is ideal, like on light textured soils (CEC less than 6 meq/100gm) or organic soils (muck), when spring applications are recommended but otherwise fall applications will allow more time for the fertilizer to move deeper into the root zone. Fertilizer (P and K) need to be exposed to precipitation and the freeze and thaw cycles to be physically broken down. Spring field operations will further degrade and disperse the particles enhancing microbial oxidation improving overall uptake and utilization of P and K nutrition by the plant.

Phosphorous and Potassium fertilization in the fall is more about replacing crop removal from this year and improving soil conditions by replenishing the soil fertility bank for next year.

Consult with a Holmes Agro Sales Representative about the Fit for Forward Fertilizing Your Soils

CLEANFarms 2017



Thank you to everyone who participated and made our collection day a success. Just a reminder that the **deadline to return your (triple rinsed, labels and caps removed) empty jugs and seed bags for this year is October 13th**. We will be starting the program again in April 2018.

Upcoming Events

October 9th – Thanksgiving Monday

October 27/ November 7 – Agricorp dates for planting winter wheat – check website and map for more details on your area
<http://www.agricorp.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PID-PlantingDates-FallGandO-en.pdf>

November 3-12 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto

