



Late Planted Winter Wheat

With the wet spring leading to later planting, and a cooler summer, the soybean crop is maturing later, possibly leading to delayed harvest and winter wheat planting. The first tool we have to plant sooner this fall is a pre-harvest burndown using Glyphosate + Eragon in our soybean crop. This program is fast acting and harvest can commence 3 days after application, compared to 7+ days if straight Glyphosate is used. Once we start planting it is important to remember that it is more important to plant into fit soils than to plant early. It is better to plant into fit soils in November than to plant into adverse conditions in October. Also ensure that planting depth is maintained, it is not a good idea to plant shallow late in the season as ground heaving will lead to more winter kill. As planting becomes later it is important to increase planting populations. With later planting dates, the wheat has less time to develop roots and tillers, increasing the plant population can help maintain yield potential. Fertility is also an important factor to ensure winter survivability and yield potential. Always use a starter to supply nutrients to the germinating seed to help with emergence, root formation and winter survivability. Holmes Agro has seen positive results by supplying 20-30 lbs/ac of nitrogen to late planted winter wheat, to promote rapid development prior to freeze up. With late planted wheat and proper management there are still good profit opportunities.



Pre-harvest Soybeans 2017 Edition

When poor herbicide performance or late seed germination results in unacceptable amounts of weeds in a soybean crop, a pre-harvest herbicide treatment will aid in a quicker, more efficient harvest. Drier plant matter will pass more easily through the combine and will result in lower seed losses and reduced seed staining. A pre-harvest application will also help get your winter wheat off to vigorous start for a successful finish- a clean field at planting time is paramount. Appropriate product selection for the target weed species and application timing are important for the success of any pre-harvest desiccant. Optimal timing on soybeans is when 90% of the pods on the soybean crop have changed colour with lower pods essentially being brown. At this stage, crop is typically at 80% leaf drop. Several product options are available depending on size and severity of weed pressure. Preharvest timing is the best time to control tough weeds like Canada thistle, quackgrass, perennial sowthistle, dandelion and milkweed.

Be proactive with this management tool and contact your Holmes Agro representative for more information in regards to Pre-harvest Burndown.

Managing Downy and Chess Brome in Winter Wheat

Those that know what downy brome or chess brome looks like know all too well how much of a nuisance it can be in winter wheat and 2017 was no exception. If you saw lots of grass in your wheat at harvest with a reddish or purplish top on it then you know what it looks like. Upon first glance, downy brome can be confused with wild oats, however wild oats will have "dark coloured" nodes. Downy brome is distinguished from other brome grasses by its hairy texture and its thin, long-awned spikelets. It is an annual and/or winter annual species that reproduces by seed and seems to thrive on lower textured soils like sand. Downy brome is extremely problematic in cereal crops, particularly fall planted wheat and barley. There simply are no herbicides that control downy brome in-crop. Pre-plant glyphosate applications are somewhat effective at keeping downy brome populations from getting out of hand as this weed will germinate in the fall. However, one can also expect germination in the spring and products like Puma do not offer any control of downy brome. A newly registered Dow product called Simplicity may be our best hope yet to control this problematic weed. This product can be both fall and spring applied with best results coming from fall application. At a rate of 28 gm per acre this is about a \$20 per acre cost. Downy brome seed is rather difficult to clean out of wheat seed so if your using common seed from an infected field then you are sure to be spreading the problem around. Weed seeds also travel around with equipment so keep that in mind as well with combines, drills etc. If you have this problem then do your best to contain it to currently infected fields. If you have any questions please speak with your Holmes rep.



New Addition to the Holmes Agro Team – Archie Wilson

It gives us great pleasure to welcome Archie Wilson to Holmes Agro Organization. Archie will be taking on the role of General Manager of HR and Facility Operations. Some of you will be aware that Archie is no stranger to Holmes Agro and has had a great deal of experience working with people in Agriculture Business. Holmes Agro have brought and wants to continue to provide strong agronomy support, operation strategies through our My Farm Software Program, Performance Acre Strategies, operation efficiencies and Professional applicators and so much more. We have as an organization, come from 5 full time employees in 1995 to now over 25 full time employees with 4 key locations. This growth has allowed us to create a position to assist us in furthering the growth and provide support to all our employees and our customers. Archie's focus will be assisting in leading the day to day operation at Orangeville and providing leadership and support to our whole Holmes Agro Team Looking forward to getting him introduced to all of you and focusing on continuing to grow our business based on the foundation that has made us a leader in the Ag Retail Industry.

Stayner Open House

On August 24, 2017, Holmes Agro in Stayner was pleased to host their annual Customer appreciation and Agronomy day. Approximately 60 growers were in attendance. There were 3 agronomy sessions held around the plot featuring: The Soil Warrior-Mike Eaton (Environmental tillage Systems) and Scott Caughill(Holmes Agro) spoke about how a strip till machine can fit on your farm and the benefits of placing fertilizer into the root zone. Paul Smith (Northern Equipment Solutions) also spoke about the unique advantages of using the Monosem twin row planter. Marieke Patton (Bayer Crop Science), and John Lightle (Holmes Agro) reviewed White mould, when it appears and how to protect your soybean crop from the disease. Blair Freeman (Dupont Pioneer) discussed how to maximize your pioneer acre. The day was rounded off with an insight to current markets from Economist and Author of Grain perspectives, Matthew Pott. We would like to extend our gratitude to all attendees - your support at the event was most appreciated.

Holmes Agronomy Day - Orangeville

On August 17th, 2017, Holmes Agro in Orangeville hosted their annual Summer Expo. We listened to Rob McLaughlin of C&M seeds and Aaron Stevanus of Pride seeds focus on the importance of planting depth in soybeans and wheat. We had some great equipment demonstrations from Paul Smith of Northern Equipment Solutions and Mike Eaton with ETS Soil Warrior. Mike talked about the Soil Warrior machine itself and the importance of Nutrient Stewardship and the 4R initiative of placing fertilizer in the right place, at the right rate, from the right source, at the right time. Taylor reviewed knowledge of why cover crops are used along with different concepts that are not as regularly considered. Cover crops are traditionally looked at as ways to hold soil and add organic matter to our soils. Newer species and concepts of cover crops have made for more effective results of providing benefits like soil conditioning, forms of deep tillage, nutrient scavenging, nitrogen credit benefits, multi species blends to give a balance of both among other discussion. We were fortunate to have Rick Hendrikx attend our day with his side dresser interseeder toolbar. With Rick's design, he has created an opportunity to incorporate the placement of cover crops while side dressing. Deveron Drones provided some great insight to how the drone technology can be applied to our farming practices. Matt Pott provided perspectives on the global markets, with his economic approach of grain markets which provides us with more perspective to the behavior of the grain market than the fundamentals themselves with primary focus on the corn, soybean and wheat markets. We would like to thank everyone who took part in our Orangeville Expo Day, it was a great success!

Calendar Pictures – Last Call!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos so far! This is the last month we will be accepting pictures for the 2018 calendar – so if you have one you would like to send in, please email it to nicole@holmesagro.com Please make sure the quality is good enough to allow the picture to be and 8 ½ x 11” size (minimum of 180 dpi 1300x928, best option 300 dpi, 2138x1538)

Upcoming Events

Sept 12th – 14th: Outdoor Farm Show, Woodstock
Sept 19th – Sept 23rd: 100th International Plowing Match, Huron County
Sept 30: Dufferin Town & Country Farm Tour
Sept 30: Deadline for submitting photos for 2017 Holmes Agro calendar

