



Corn Fungicide Check In

The corn across the province has begun to tassel, which means you may be seeing helicopters and ground sprayers starting to apply preventative fungicide applications. There has been lots of chatter about the use of preventative fungicides since the presence of tar spot in southern Ontario in 2021. So far, 2022 is looking to be less of a disease year with the hot dry weather we have experienced thus far. Weather can change in the blink of an eye though so now is the time to get out and scout your corn for disease pressure while keeping the key principles of Integrated Pest Management in mind!

Preventative fungicides are best positioned on the following fields:

- Fields with high yield potential
- Historically high DON level fields
- Silage fields that are looking for a quality boost



Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) is an important pest to be monitoring at this time as well as many insecticides can be tank mixed with your fungicide to reduce the number of passes in a field. The greatest amount of egg masses to be seen in field occur after peak moth flight. Counts have risen drastically in the past week across our region so now is the time to scout! White egg masses are freshly laid, whereas purple/black egg masses are ready to hatch in 48-72hrs.

Talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist for more information or check out this week's MyFarm email blast [Click here](#)

Bringing Diversity to Your Rotation – 2023 Winter Wheat

There are many reasons to keep wheat in the rotation as it helps maintain a sustainable cropping system, improves soil health and structure when in a diverse rotation, spreads out your yearly workload, can break disease cycles and help lower risk of compaction, cover crop systems can be easily implemented, and wheat can increase soil biological activity and help for better water infiltration.

The use of certified seed for your winter wheat crop can come with various benefits such as: **Seed quality** – uniform seed size, germination tested, fewer damaged kernels; **Clean seed** – free of weed seed; **Genetic purity**; Increased disease resistance and is typically treated which can help **improve emergence and vigor**.

Our highlighted varieties for this fall include:

B654 (SRW) – Outstanding yield potential with great winter survival and test weight. [Click here](#)

Blaze (SRW) – Top level yield performance, strong fusarium tolerance this variety can perform well across all soil types [Click here](#)

Pro 81 (HRWW) – has very strong yield and class topping protein. Medium height with great standability and good performance on all soils [Click here](#)

Adrianus (HRWW) – perfect combo yield and protein, good disease package, great standability with a short statured plant [Click here](#)

Early order deadlines are fast approaching with the first deadline on August 11th, 2022. Speak to your agronomist today about your options for fall seeded cereals.

Obsolete Chemical Day

Holmes Agro is once again hosting an Obsolete Chemical Day with the Clean Farms Program! It will be one day near the end of September (date to be announced). Eligible materials are old, obsolete, or otherwise unwanted pesticides (anything with a Pest Control Product Number on the label) and animal health medications (anything with a Drug Identification Number on the label). Liquid fertilizers are ineligible for this program. For more info check cleanfarms.ca

Please only bring pesticide products on the day of the event, no drop-offs in the time leading up to the event date.

***** **Check the website holmesagro.com for general information and upcoming important dates** *****



Fertilizing Forages – Don't Cut Yourself Short

When it comes to hay production, low soil nutrient levels can limit yield and quality. Forage crops remove a large amount of nutrients and therefore have high nutrient input requirements. With a primarily alfalfa hay mix, the typical amount of phosphorous and potassium (P & K) removed per tonne of hay harvested is equivalent to 14 lbs of P₂O₅ and 54 lbs of K₂O. The importance of sulfur and boron to a forage stand should not be overlooked as a key component to balance fertility and synergetic relationships with 5 lbs Sulfur and 0.2 lbs Boron removed per tonne of hay harvested.

Without replacing P and K with manure or fertilizer, the soil test will drop quickly. Low soil P and K fertility significantly reduces the productivity, longevity, and quality of your stand, making the lost income potential from poor fertility higher than the input cost of fertilizer.

Products such as Kalime which provides both a liming agent and a supply of K, S along with micronutrients (B, Mg, Zn, ...) or Aspire which is a homogenous blend of potash and boron are great for providing value added fertility to your forage stand.

Consider the following benefits to applying a late summer or fall fertility blend for your forages

- Increased drought tolerance and disease suppression in future years due to maintaining soil K levels
- Spread out the spring workload
- Help to replace nutrients removed from 'soil bank account' and maintain soil fertility levels

4R's and Soil Sampling

4R Nutrient Stewardship allows Ontario farmers to reduce fertilizer emissions by using the 4R's: **Right Source** (of fertilizer), at the **Right Rate**, **Right Time**, and **Right Place**. Utilizing these practices also increases yield, optimizes plant nutrient uptake, and maximizes profitability while maintaining soil integrity for generations to come.

Soil sampling is a fundamental component of 4R Nutrient Stewardship and requires updated sampling at least every four years in zones no larger than 25 acres! There are several options for soil sampling; a **zone sample** is taking soil cores from predetermined high, moderate, & low yielding areas, versus a **grid sample** is placing a grid over top of the field (normally in 2.5 acres cells) and taking a sample at each point, versus a **bulk sample** which gives a general overview.

Wheat, canola, soy, corn, barley rely heavily on base fertility, which is why it is important to adjust rates to appropriate levels based on soil samples, yield goals, crop removal, and future planning! Utilizing 4R, soil sampling, incorporating P are great tools that your Holmes Agro agronomist can help you reach your crop goals and develop a fall fertility plan!

Watch It Grow

The majority of 'Watch it Grow' signs are up. This sign can be found at the Orangeville Research Farm.

Did you know – The world record corn yield is 616 bu/acre! Grow in Virginia, USA

Scouting update – Western Bean Cutworm moth counts are increasing across the province, now is the time to check for egg masses. Along with checking fields for disease pressure, corn root worm pressure, and nutrient deficiencies.

Let your Holmes Agro representative know if you would like a 'Watch It Grow' sign by your field this summer!



Calendar 2023

Keep sending in pictures for the 2023 calendar. We are proud to be able to provide a calendar full of grower pictures year after year – all thanks to your great submissions! Please email your photos to calendar@holmesagro.com

Upcoming Dates

Aug 17th – Deadline for OSCIA Cover Crop Funding <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/program/cover-cropping/>

Aug 22nd – Canada Mental Health Association 'In the Know' Virtual Session <https://ontario.cmha.ca/intheknow/>

Aug 27th – Farm & Food Care Breakfast on the Farm

Sept 13-15th – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Sept 20-24th – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

Oct 1st – Dufferin Farm Tour www.dufferinfarmtour.com

***** Please email laura@holmesagro.com to sign up for our e-newsletter *****

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