



ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS' UPDATE

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Soybean Report

July 2008

CROP UPDATE

By Horst Bohner, Soybean Specialist, OMAFRA

Most soybeans are now rapidly filling the canopy. However, some fields remain pale green or yellow. Discoloured leaves may be caused by a number of factors. Pale green soybean leaves at this time of year can be caused by a lack of nitrogen in the plant. As bean leaves are growing in these early stages, the roots are not able to supply all the nitrogen required. A dark green colour will return as the nodules catch up and supply the N required by the leaves.

If yellow beans are concentrated on headlands or where there has been obvious glyphosate spray overlap on Roundup Ready (RR) beans, the culprit may be yellow flash. Yellow flash sometimes occurs with the application of glyphosate. The glyphosate temporarily ties up Manganese (Mn) in the plant. These symptoms usually last for about a week and no yield declines will result. Research has found that adding chelated Mn to glyphosate to reduce yellow flash does not increase yield if the fields have adequate Mn to begin with.

On the other hand, yellow leaves with dark veins are classic symptoms of true Mn deficiency and will cause yield losses. The key to identifying this problem is that the leaf veins remain a dark green while the areas between the leaf veins are yellowing. If caught early enough, the problem can be completely corrected by a foliar application of Manganese.

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE

By Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Plant Pathologist, OMAFRA

Ontario Soybean Growers, along with several partners are supporting the Soybean Rust Sentinel plot monitoring program throughout Ontario in 2008. Now entering its fourth year, this monitoring system provides an early warning system to detect soybean rust infection and risk to Ontario's soybean crop. The plot system, led by Albert Tenuta, OMAFRA Field Crop Pathologist, involves intense scouting of soybean plots for soybean rust and other diseases, regularly throughout the growing season. The monitoring system is directly linked to a system in the United States that covers the US soybean growing area, as well as Mexico.

In 2007, the sentinel plot system resulted in the first confirmations of Asian soybean rust spores and the disease in Canada. The first detection of soybean rust spores in the province occurred in late June (St. Thomas area) with additional spore showers throughout the province into September. In October 2007, the first Canadian detection of soybean rust on a soybean plant was found in Ridgeway, Ontario. Fortunately the infection occurred late in the growing season, and did not negatively impact Ontario's 2007 soybean crop. The infected leaf sample was confirmed using molecular DNA analysis done by Dr. Sarah Hambleton of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's laboratories in Ottawa. The events of 2007 demonstrate soybean rust spore can move into the province and under favorable condition, plant infection can occur. The sentinel plots, spore trapping and computer disease modeling have proven to be a very effective decision support tool for OMAFRA and the OSG in assessing producer risk throughout the growing season.

Although there have been more soybean rust infections in Florida this year when compared to 2007, the risk to Ontario's 2008 soybean crop is low at this time due to the dry, hot conditions in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. We expect soybean rust spore production from these areas to be our biggest concern.

Will our risk change? A lot will depend on weather patterns in the southern US throughout the next 4 to 6 weeks. If weather conditions are favourable for rust (moderate temperatures with moisture) particularly in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, movement of rust spores into the central and northern soybean production area could occur with the aid of storm fronts, or strong winds originating in these regions.

For updates on soybean rust please visit the Ontario Soybean Grower's website at www.soybean.ca and click on the soybean rust button. Additional information can be found on the U.S. ipmPIPE website at www.sbrusa.net.

OSG SUPPORTS SOBIN RIDGETOWN BIODIESEL FACILITY

On June 20th, the Southwestern Ontario Bioproducts Innovation Network (SOBIN) and the University of Guelph's Ridgeway Campus announced federal funding of almost \$1 million for the establishment of an on-campus farm-scale biodiesel demonstration, education and applied research facility.

Ontario Soybean Growers' support of the project was recognized at the launch event, held at the Ridgeway Campus. "OSG's commitment of \$10,000 toward the quality testing laboratory for the Ridgeway biodiesel facility underlines our members' support for clean, renewable energy research", notes Dale Petrie, OSG General Manager. A main objective of the project is to demonstrate to farmers how they can be engaged in the renewable energy sector, by making it easier for them to successfully produce fuel from their farms, and add value to the by-products.

Funding for the facility comes through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program, delivered in Ontario by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. SOBIN, a not-for-profit organization, works primarily within the agriculture, automotive, chemical and energy industries to encourage increased bio-based enterprise. For more information visit: www.sobin.ca



DON'T MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!

Deadline: Extended to JULY 31, 2008

Great Prizes

- Each entrant will receive a stylish Yield Challenge Hat
- Each zone winner and runner up will receive an official Yield Challenge jacket
- Each zone runner up wins tickets to the Canadian International Farm Equipment Show & Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
- GRAND PRIZE (1 per zone) wins cash – \$10 x yield (bu)

3 Provincial Zones

- Zone 1: 2700 HU and under
- Zone 2: 2725 HU – 3000 HU
- Zone 3: 3025 HU and above

Registration fee: \$10.00 (per variety entered)

For more information, please visit www.soybean.on.ca

HARVEST OF HOPE -ONTARIO'S FOOD BANKS ARE IN NEED

The **Farmers Feed Cities!** campaign is calling on Ontario's grain and oilseed producers to help us feed struggling Ontarians this harvest season.

While prices for food staples are going up this year due, in part, to increasing commodity prices, the people who rely on food banks are being hit the hardest. Many families cannot afford to put food on their table and are turning to food banks for help. We know the rise in the cost of food isn't all related to the price of commodities, but in a year where producers might have a little extra, we can make a big difference to those in need.

Farmers Feed Cities! has joined with the United Way to collect bushel donations from farmers this harvest season at elevators across the province. Beginning with wheat harvest this month, donation cards will be available at many of the country elevators. The United Way is working with Farmers Feed Cities! to ensure donations go where the need is greatest, both in rural communities and in the cities' hardest hit areas. Every donation will be recognized by the United Way with a tax receipt.

Please consider donating just a few bushels of your crop this year to feed our city neighbours who are most in need. After experiencing a decade of prices below our cost of production, we know what it is like to need the support of our fellow Ontarians. When we asked for their support, they came through loud and clear with thousands of postcards to the McGuinty government demanding the Risk Management Program. Let's return the favour and lend a helping hand.

For more information, contact Scott Allison at Farmers Feed Cities by phone 519-767-4132 or e-mail: scott@farmersfeedcities.com



OSG WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Mary Wiley recently joined OSG as Communications Coordinator. Mary has an extensive background in agriculture communications, public relations and consumer education. A Bruce County native, she is a 1982 graduate of the University of Guelph.

Mary's career began with consumer education and public relations roles with the Beef Information Centre and the Canadian Meat Council. She was the founding staff person with AGCare, helping farmers proactively communicate about Grower Pesticide Safety, Environmental Farm Plans and the advent of biotechnology.

Mary has most recently provided communications consulting services to a number of agri-food industry clients, focusing on media relations, consumer education, value-added and functional foods and risk communication. Mary brings to the OSG extensive knowledge in event planning, media relations, website design, publications, advertising and PR campaigns.

Mary, her husband Dave and 3 children reside west of St Catharines, where they own and operate a 150- acre wine grape vineyard.

Mary can be contacted at the Ontario Soybean Growers office by telephone: 519-767-2773 e-mail: mwiley@soybean.on.ca or cell phone: 519-993-2070.



Mary Wiley

