

Field Crop Report



Cereals: Peter Johnson / Scott Banks

Winter Wheat: Little field progress has been made this past week, with nitrogen applications holding at about 50% complete. Growers with nitrogen applied are concerned about nitrogen loss; growers without nitrogen applied are worried about yield loss from late application. Reality: there is little concern over N loss, or late N application. Worst case scenario for N loss would be 10%, with a realistic loss more likely 2-3%. Yield loss from late application of N does not occur until stem elongation, and even when delayed until second node (GS 32) yield loss is small. Unless weather conditions remain warm and wet, there is little to worry about with nitrogen.

Emerging Issues: Early planted fields in long season areas are at GS 30; timing for weed control and growth regulator applications will be ideal the week of May 1 in these fields. Later planted fields are a week behind this. Winter annual weeds are flowering or bolting. Wet soil conditions are preventing timely application of herbicides on these weeds, which should be sprayed immediately. No disease pressure is evident yet.

Spring Cereals: Little progress on planting to date. Growers in higher heat unit areas are reaching the critical point. Early planting of spring cereals is crucial, with yield loss of 1 bu/ac/day occurring if planting occurs after April 30th. Consider switching from 2 row barley to 6 row barley if planting delays become significant: 6 row barley varieties suffer less yield loss from late planting. Increase seeding rates by 10% for every week seeding is delayed, to compensate for reduced tillering in the crop.

Corn: Greg Stewart

Virtually no planting progress has occurred since April 16. Ultra long hybrids (150 CHU more than adapted) that may have been selected for early planting opportunities should be replaced with adapted, full season hybrids if not planted by May 10. Switching away from full season hybrids should be considered on May 15 in short season areas (less than 2800 CHU), May 20-25 in areas rated at 2800-3200 CHU and May 30 in areas over 3200 CHU (All CHU ratings are based on May 1 start date). When suitable soil conditions are present for planting do not delay planting in order to apply pre-plant nitrogen. There are a range of post planting application strategies that can be used where the loss of nitrogen will be minor in comparison to potential yield losses if a planting window is missed.

Soybeans: Horst Bohner

No soybean planting progress has been made to date. Soybeans are more prone to yield losses from soil compaction than other crops. Waiting for the soil to be dry before planting is far more important than planting date. Lowering tractor tire pressure where possible can make a significant difference. Soybeans have a reputation for not needing applied fertilizer. This is only true if the soil test is adequate. Soybeans are especially sensitive to low K levels. If a field has not been tested in the last few years it is well worth the time to take a soil test. Soybeans will respond nicely to spring applied P and K if the soil test is low. There is no evidence that applying extra fertilizer to a high testing field will provide greater soybean yield.

Common Questions on Weed Control: Mike Cowbrough

Question: What rate of glyphosate is needed to control dandelion pre-plant in soybeans?

Answer: 2 L/ac (360 g/L concentration) has provided over 95% visual control of established dandelions in public research trials but does not provide any residual control of seedling dandelions. Guardian (glyphosate + Classic) has also provided excellent control of established dandelion and residual control of seedling dandelions.

Forages & Pastures: Jack Kyle / Joel Bagg

Forages: There appears to be very little alfalfa winterkill, even in the higher risk areas of the province. There are some reports of poor establishment in last summer's forage seedings. Many older hay fields are being rotated to other field crops and acreage of intended new seedings appears slightly below normal. With wet soil conditions, very little of the new seeding is complete. Forage crop development continues to be somewhat delayed by cold weather.

Continue to watch alfalfa fields that showed signs of disease last year. Windshield assessments can be deceiving, so it is important to walk those fields and assess alfalfa for plant health, including root and crown disease and heaving. Using a shovel, dig alfalfa roots, rinse them off in a pail, use a knife to cut open the root and crown, and assess plant health. Watch for crown and root rots, brownish discoloration, spongy texture and lack of secondary roots and nodulation.

Pastures: Cool weather has made for a late start to the pasture season. Management during the first round of rotational grazing can affect the productivity of the pasture for the rest of the summer. Do not start grazing until the grass has the 3rd leaf emerged (7-10 cm) and then rotate quickly between paddocks. Livestock should be rotated quickly through the paddocks so that all plants have been bitten off before they have an opportunity to produce a seed head. Remember the phrase "the faster the grass is growing the faster the rotation". The last paddock in the rotation should be grazed before the seed heads emerge. If the early flush of grass gets ahead of the livestock, it is best to bypass some of the paddocks, harvest an early cut of hay/haylage, and graze the second growth.

Weather Summary



Below: Dandelion at the rosette stage is best controlled pre-plant in soybeans with Guardian or high rates of glyphosate.

Location	April 19—25 2011	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall
		Max	Min	(mm)
Windsor	2011	11.1	4.1	68.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	15	3.8	18.9
London	2011	10.7	2.3	38.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	14.3	3	43
Outdoor Farm Show	2011	10	1.3	55.1
	30 Yr. Avg.	14.2	2.9	22.2
Hamilton	2011	10.2	2	47.1
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.8	3	18.5
Elora	2011	9.6	-0.2	35.6
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.4	2.3	36.6
Mount Forest	2011	9.5	-0.7	28.9
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.1	2	34.5
Peterborough	2011	11.3	-0.1	30
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.5	2	31.9
Trenton	2011	11.3	1.0	35.5
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.6	2.1	16.7
Ottawa	2011	11.2	0.8	23.2
	30 Yr. Avg.	13.8	2.2	16.1



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