



# CropLinks Aug. 22, 2018

## 7 Steps to Getting Wheat Off to an Excellent Start

### **Variety Selection**

You must pick your varieties based on three main criteria: grain yield, straw yield and Fusarium resistance. Review the [2018 Cereal Guide for NS](#) for further information.

### **Seed Treatment**

Know what disease and insects are controlled by the seed treatment you are purchasing. The selection of the seed treatment is just as important as the selection of the variety. If you are purchasing un-treated seed, you can add treatment on-farm for seedling diseases and insects. You can check [here](#) for more details about on-farm seed treatment. Seed treatment becomes even more important as planting is delayed.

### **Seeding Rate**

We have to talk in seeds per acre and convert this to lbs/ac to have a discussion about seeding rate. The seed size will change from variety to variety and from seed lot to lot. Keep an eye on this or you risk over shooting your targeted seeding rate, costing you money and increasing disease and lodging. At the optimum timing, winter wheat should be seeded at 1.5 million seeds/acre. For earlier plantings the seeding rate should be decreased to 1.1 million seeds/acre. The wheat will develop more tillers on earlier plantings and this will make up for the lower seeding rate. When planting winter wheat after September 25th, there is reduced fall tillering. To compensate for this, increase the seeding rate by 200,000 seeds/week to a maximum of 2.2 million seeds/acre.

### **Date of Planting**

I always get the question, "What is the earliest seeding date?" If I'm pushed, I'll always give September 1st as the earliest date. September 10-15 have been shown to be the ideal planting dates. As seeding gets delayed, fall root development and tiller development is decreased. Tiller development should be compensated for on later plantings with an increased seeding rate.

### **Planting Depth**

Seed should be planted at 1-1.5 inches deep, no matter what the date. This will allow the crown roots to be set at  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch depth. Proper seeding depth also helps with frost heaving over winter. Crown roots at the proper depth will often keep the plant from getting jacked out of the ground by frost.

### **Starter Fertilizer**

Phosphorous is very important in establishing the plant in the fall with limited root growth due to late planting and cooling soils. Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) in the seed box with the seed is the most economical way of delivering phosphorous. The rate of MAP should be 50-100 lbs/ac. If phosphorous in the seed box cannot be achieved, MAP should be broadcast and lightly harrowed in at 200 lbs/ac. MAP should not be broadcast and left on the surface. Phosphorous movement in the soil is very limited and it will not make it to the roots, if left on the surface. The phosphorous is also prone to surface erosion when left on the soil surface. Liquid starters will also work in this scenario but may prove to be more expensive. Trial work has been done locally on soils with extremely high levels of phosphorous and we still see economic responses to phosphorous placed with the seed.

### **Fall Weed Control**

It is critical to plant into a weed free field. Weeds present at seeding will be well established compared to the emerging wheat and very hard to clean up in the young wheat crop. Fall is the time when nasty weeds like shepherds purse, cleavers, dandelion, and scentless chamomile emerge and establish. These can become very competitive by the time the spring herbicide season rolls around. I would urge farmers to have a look at a product like [Eragon](#) residual herbicide. This needs to be applied pre-emergent to the wheat and will help to control the weeds through this fall period. Roundup maybe added to Eragon to control emerged

weeds. **GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE WHEAT IS NOT EMERGED.** I find too often that growers cannot travel in spring to apply their herbicides in a timely manner. Often spring herbicides do not get applied to wheat until after growth stage 30 (the end of tillering) and this is much too late. Late spring herbicides do a poorer job of controlling well established large weeds and can stress the wheat causing yield loss. Having a weed free winter wheat field using Eragon also sets you up very well to frost seed red clover into the wheat crop. We continually have great effects on corn yields from frost seeding red clover into winter wheat then rotating to corn.

**Pasture Workshop**- There will be a pasture walk & talk at Kevin Veinotte's Out to Pasture Farm, at **300 Mossman Rd in West Northfield, Lunenburg County, on Saturday, September 8 at 1 pm.** Kevin pasture raises poultry, sheep, and beef and direct markets his grass-fed products. Sonny Murray, Field Crops Specialist with Perennia will join in on the session. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Terry McKay (902) 247-4420.

## **Pasture Management - 'tis the season for weed control**

Increasing pasture productivity comes down to four main areas:

- Controlling weeds and herbaceous plants
- Controlling grazing and giving the desirable species time to recover
- Soil fertility
- Introducing new and improved pasture species to the stand

The first step that needs to be taken is weed control. Nasty perennials and biennials can be found this time of year in their rosette stage preparing themselves for winter. It is an ideal time to take them out with a well-timed/planned herbicide strategy.

1. Identify the weeds of concern – then identify what will control them. Which herbicides you choose, and the recommended application rates, will vary by weed species and timing. If woody plants are also present, or are the dominant species, consider products labeled for brush control. Some

products offer weed and brush control, or you can tank mix to reach the desired control spectrum. Inventory your pastures for weedy trouble spots. Determine if overstocking is contributing to the problem and consider adjusting your grazing management plan to match available forage. It is also important to take stock of the legume content of the stand. If you are going to apply a blanket treatment of herbicide, you will definitely sacrifice the legume plants to control the weeds.

2. Consider mowing, not spraying, drought-stressed or mature weeds. Weeds without adequate moisture that aren't actively growing will be difficult to control with herbicides. Don't spray unless you're willing to accept less control. Mowing biennial and perennial plants will set them up for fall treatment when they generate regrowth. Mowing also decreases seed production and increases digestibility of the grasses.
3. Follow label directions for application and mixing. Apply the recommended herbicide rate in 10-20 gallons of total spray mixture per acre. For brush control, use at least 20 gallons/acre to ensure thorough coverage.

### **Product Selection**

2,4-D 0.6-1.8 l/ac depending on formulation and weeds present. Do not permit lactating dairy animals to graze fields within 7 days after application. Do not harvest forage or cut hay within 30 days after application. Withdraw meat animals from treated fields at least three days before slaughter.

Dicamba (Banvel, Enginia) 0.5-1.1 l/ac can provide a very short residual control on emerging weeds. No grazing for 15 days for dairy cattle. No grazing 30 days before slaughter.

MCPA 0.88 l/ac Wait 7 days before grazing

Milestone 0.1-0.2 l/ac will provide residual control on emerging weeds for two years. No grazing restrictions. Do not try to re-establish legumes for 4 years. Do not allow manure from treated areas to be transferred to broadleaf crops.

Garlon 0.24-1 l/ac best product on bedstraw or saplings/brambles. Grazing restrictions of 14 days where the whole area is treated. No grazing restrictions on lower rates or if lower rates are used.

Pasture Herbicide Weed Control Ratings								
Product	Life Cycle	Curled Dock	Dandelion	Knapweed	Canada Thistle	Bull Thistle	Golden Rod	Buttercup
		Perennial	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial	Biennial	Perennial	Perennial
	<b>2,4-D</b>	7	7	4	8	8	7	7
	<b>MCPA</b>	7	8	5	5	6	5	8
	<b>Garlon</b>	9	9	7	4	9	9	8
	<b>Milestone</b>	9	8	9	9	9	4	9
	<b>Dicamba</b>	9	7	7	8	8	9	8

Taken from OMAFRA Guide to Weed Control Pub 75  
Ratings 1= poor 10 = Excellent

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