Lakeside GRAIN & FEED LIMITED

PRECISION AGRICULTURE COMPLIANCE EXCELLENCE

THE Agromart GROUP

March

Newsletter

By: Anita Speers

Winter Wheat Strategy for 2019

The fall of 2018 proved to be challenging for getting winter wheat acres planted. For the acres that did get into the ground, some growers are unsure if they should keep their wheat fields. With wheat stands looking questionable and contract prices being locked in anywhere from $6.25 to upwards of $7.00, making the decision to terminate a wheat crop does not come easily. In my opinion, I think that assessing wheat stands from the cab of a pickup truck will not suffice this year to make a final decision on whether to keep the crop.

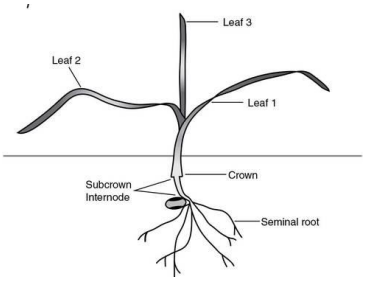

Figure 1: After digging up the crown of a wheat plant, look to see if the crown is white and looking healthy with new roots. If the plant meets these criteria, it is a viable plant.

(image courtesy of MSU)

Sometimes growers can give up too soon on their wheat crop. That being said, is it amazing how resilient a wheat crop can be, given some extra time. One of the most popular stand survival techniques used is the crown test. In order to complete this test, dig up the crown of a wheat plant. Look to see if the crown has a white colour and has new healthy roots coming from it. If so, this means the crop has returned to growing and is in good condition. Continue to do this across the entire field for a reliable sample.

Herbicide Review: Wheat

Whether you're a novice wheat grower or a seasoned veteran, it never hurts to have a quick review of the chemistries available to you and your wheat crop (**note**: be sure to check Pub 75 for all options available to you, as I will be reviewing the most commonly used products). If you decide to underseed Red Clover, your herbicide decision is almost made instantly for you: Buctril M or a related product like Badge. It may not be the newest product on the market, but its reputation is one that speakers for itself. The MCPA (group 4) chemistry within this product acts in a systemic fashion – it moves to actively growing regions of the weed and interferes with protein synthesis, which ultimately leads to plant death. Bromoxynil (Group 6) acts differently from MCPA because it is nonmobile and has little to no movement within the plant tissue. More commonly, it's referred to as a contact chemistry. You'll see this in the form of necrotic tissue on weeds.

No Red Clover? No problem! Have a look at products like Pixxaro or Infinity. If you find your fields are challenged by Vetch, consider adding Pixxaro to your crop plan in 2019. Pixxaro contains halauxifen-methyl, a member of the group 4 chemistry family. It mimics the plant growth hormone auxin, which causes normal growth processes of weeds to be interrupted. Fleabane is a weed that unfortunately has found a home in most fields across Southwestern Ontario and continues to move across the province. Within Infinity, you will find Bromoxynil partnered with Pyrasulfotole. The group 27 chemistry of Pyrasulfotole is an HPPD inhibitor, which means it prevents carotenoid biosynthesis – in the field, this translates into bleached weeds. Most recently, Bayer has released Infinity FX, which has three effective modes of action for resistance management (group 6, 27 and 4 chemistries). Regardless of whether you chose to use Infinity or Infinity FX, both are compatible tank mix partners with AMS. By adding AMS into your spray tank, there is increased activity on Dandelion and Canada thistle. Unsure of what goes in the tank first? Remember this tank mix is in alphabetical order: A for AMS is first, I for Infinity is second.