

Winter Wheat- Assess Your Stand!

Luke Hartung, CCA-ON, 4R-NMS, CCS

Spring weather is returning, allowing growers an opportunity to get out into fields and assess their winter wheat (WW) stand. Last fall's wetter conditions saw wheat looking stressed. Having a consistent stand of wheat will go a long way toward maximizing your wheat yield potential. When assessing your winter wheat stand, consider the following;

- 1. How many plants are there per foot of row?** OMAFRA data suggests that 20 plants per foot of row has 100% yield potential, and as low as 7 plants per foot of row has 90% yield potential. However, 7 plants is low, and you are likely setting yourself up for a +/- 70 bushel yield under ideal growing conditions. It is just as important to understand how many tillers there are per plant. This will also help you gauge your field's yield potential. For maximum potential WW stands should have between 450-600 total heads (i.e. main stem plus tillers). To achieve this, generally, you need 12-17 plants per foot of row+tillers.
- 2. Are the plants all plants well-rooted?** Plants that have suffered from frost heaving will have their roots attached at the surface and will look green in April, but these plants will not survive. Do not count them when doing your stand counts.
- 3. If you have to rip it up, have a backup plan.** After assessing the field in April, it still might be too close to call if it is worth keeping or not, and it may make sense to apply some nitrogen and sulphur. Fertilizing will encourage the plants to green up and start tillering. But you must keep in mind that if after adding the fertilizer the wheat still doesn't look good (or at least in pockets of the field), you will need to plant another crop. If your plan B is soybeans, we would suggest only applying 40-50lbs of nitrogen. But, if your plan B is corn or spring grain, apply up to 70lbs of nitrogen on your first pass. A split nitrogen program is strongly encouraged for the late plated WW. If you do need to re-plant some areas or the whole field, NWC's seed partners often have in-season seed programs to help lower the cost of the seed. Ask your NWC Crop Specialist about how to access these savings.

Since every field situation is different, we would suggest talking to your NWC Crop Specialist to develop a plan for your winter wheat crop. But remember, it all starts with assessing where your crop is at so get out there and check it out!

Nitrogen Stabilizers - Protect Your Nitrogen Investment!

Luke Hartung, CCA-ON, 4R-NMS, CCS

With nitrogen fertilizer prices at an all-time high, there is an increased interest in using nitrogen stabilizers. These stabilizers help prevent loss from both volatilization (gassing off) and denitrification, thus allowing the crop to up-take more of the nutrients. In many cases, farms see an increased yield when using nitrogen stabilizers. On top of that, these stabilizers also help reduce nitrous oxide, which is a major greenhouse gas pollutant. NWC has been promoting the usage of these products for several years and has hands-on experience working and recommending them. There are several products available, but they work in different ways to inhibit nitrogen loss. Here is a breakdown of each product and how they work:

Volatilization Protection:

These products are designed to prevent nitrogen fertilizers from 'gassing off'. These products are used when the nitrogen product cannot be worked into the ground, ie: top-dressing wheat, and corn. The product we recommend for this is **Anvol**, which can be used on both Urea and UAN.

Denitrification Protection:

These products prevent N-loss from water-logged soils where nitrogen can be transformed from a stable form available to plants to gas. This process is a lot more likely to occur on fields with drainage issues, or that are just overall slower to dry off (clay type soils). The product we recommend to prevent denitrification is **eNtrench**. This product can be used on Urea, UAN and even manure. Situations you should consider using eNtrench in is if you apply all your nitrogen pre-plant for your crop (corn, spring cereals or canola).

Volatilization and Denitrification Protection:

These products combine protection for both volatilization and denitrification. We recommend using **Tribune**, however, it can only be used on UAN. This product gives you the ultimate N-loss protection, and it is highly recommended in all UAN applications.

To make things easier to understand and compare, here is a chart to explain the differences between the three products mentioned above.

Product	How It Protects N	Compatible N Fertilizers	Rate	When to Use It
Anvol	Volatilization	Urea, UAN	1.6L/MT Urea or .946L/200gal UAN	When you cannot incorporate N. ie: wheat and corn top dress
eNtrench	Denitrification	Urea, UAN, Manure	0.71L per acre, all products	When applying all N pre-plant. On heavy soils
Tribune	Volatilization and Denitrification	UAN	1 jug/MT UAN (206.2 US gal)	In all N applications

If you have questions on any of these nitrogen stabilizer products, please contact your NWC Crop Specialist to go over them in further detail.



Spring 2022 is shaping up to be another interesting one. Global and political influences are impacting our industry at every turn. Transportation challenges coupled with increasing fuel costs further complicate our efforts to serve you efficiently. To that end, we are confident that we have secured adequate fertilizer for our members. We are well positioned for seed products, and we have taken long standings on chemistry in an attempt to get ahead of the ongoing allocations of certain products from suppliers. In short, we have and are doing everything in our power to make sure we get your crop in the ground, get it fed, and get it protected. We know there will be in-season challenges and we ask for your patience as we work through them. Please continue to plan and communicate with our staff and we will have a great spring!

Field Challenges in 2022

Brent Troyer, CCA-ON, 4R-NMS, CCS

Corn - Tar Spot

In the fall of 2021, we saw some Tar Spot infection appear later in the season in our area's corn crop. Although we didn't feel the negative effect on 2021's corn crop, this can present a new challenge for our corn acres for this year and beyond. Why? Unlike other leaf diseases we see in our corn crop, Tar Spot will survive on the dead tissue over winter, allowing for easier infection of the corn crop if the weather is favourable. Favourable weather conditions include leaf wetness at night, high humidity (70%+) and foggy days. Early July is the best time to start scouting for any leaf infection. Depending on when Tar Spot infection occurs, corn yield loss can be significant if left unchecked and untreated.

Tar Spot can often be confused with leaf rust. Unlike leaf rust, which can be rubbed off the corn leaf surface, Tar Spot will not rub off of the leaf surface. Tar Spot is manageable if the infection is found early, and an effective fungicide is used. If a grower is planting corn in 2022, we strongly suggest preventatively applying a fungicide that suppresses Tar Spot. If you are concerned or would like to discuss Tar Spot further, contact your NWC Crop Specialist.

**Heavy Tar Spot Infection****Soybean – White Mould**

Most years we can find some white mould in our soybean crop, the level of infection can depend on a few things. When evaluating the threat level of a disease, we need to factor environment, the pathogen and the host plant. Soybeans have a lush canopy that minimizes the plant's ability to dry out during the day creating an environment for white mould to set in. White mould can be managed when equipped with the right information; knowing the field history, having a variety that has a very good to excellent white mould rating, planting on wider rows on known problem fields, or using an effective fungicide at the correct crop stage. These are a few of the management tools we can use to reduce the incidents of white mould while protecting yield.

**White Mould Infection****Weeds – Glyphosate Resistant Weeds**

Managing the weed population in our fields is critical to maintaining yield expectations. Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in resistant weeds in Ontario. Canada Fleabane, Giant Ragweed, Common Ragweed, and Waterhemp are the main weeds that have been found resistant to not only glyphosate, but to multiple herbicide groups. One weed we have found to be resistant to glyphosate in our area is Canada Fleabane. Canada Fleabane is a challenging weed to control as one plant can produce many seeds that spread with the wind or even harvesting equipment. Identifying these weeds correctly is the first step in reducing the impact they can have on your crop now and into the future. North Wellington Co-op's crop scouting program can help you stay on top of these problematic weeds to maximize your yields! For more information regarding this program, please contact your Crop Specialist.

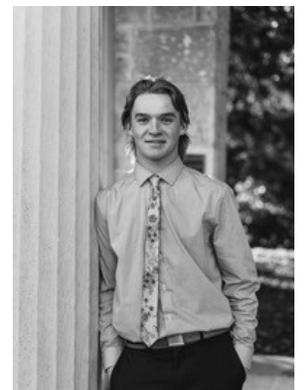
**Canada Fleabane**

New to the Crew!

Hi everyone, my name is Alyssa Farrelly. I am from the small town of Arthur. I am a returning employee at North Wellington Co-op and look forward to crop scouting again this summer. I am currently enrolled at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus in the Agriculture diploma program. I have taken many courses focused on cropping systems and diagnosis and look forward to applying them in the field again this summer. Something I hope to learn more about is the use of different fungicides in my favourite crop, soybeans. When I'm not at work I enjoy spending my time with family, friends, and my dog Waylon! I look forward to meeting and working with you again this summer.



Hello everyone, my name is Reid Lobsinger. I am a spring 2022 graduate from the University of Guelph's Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Honours Agriculture program. I have accepted the position of Retail Account Manager – Crop & Livestock Specialist. I look forward to working and providing insight on the different diseases and pests that affect all types of crops and how best to manage them. I grew up and currently live on a beef farm outside of Palmerston. Having grown up on a farm and working with animals for most of my life, my favourite crop would have to be corn-it was the first crop that I grew. Outside of work, I enjoy playing sports such as hockey and baseball. I also enjoy spending time fishing and hunting.

**Harriston**

56 Margaret St S, PO Box 700
Harriston ON N0G 1Z0
ph: 519-338-2331 fx: 519-338-3513
harriston@northwellington.ca

Durham

377 Garafraxa St S
Durham ON N0G 1R0
ph: 519-369-2415 fx: 519-369-6383
durham@northwellington.ca

Hanover

691 10th Street
Hanover ON N4N 1S1
ph: 519-364-4777 fx: 519-364-7128
hanover@northwellington.ca

Mount Forest

404 Main Street South
Mount Forest ON N0G 2L3
ph: 519-323-1271 fx: 519-323-3438
mountforest@northwellington.ca