

# Field Crop Report



## Cereals: Peter Johnson/Scott Banks

Winter cereal harvest is winding up across the province. Average yield should approach trendline (81 bu/ac), with some outstanding yields reported (135 bu/ac). Quality is excellent, extremely high test weights, excellent falling number, and very low fusarium. A few reports of sprouts in white wheat in the southwest where growers did not jump on early harvest (rain zone), and blackpoint causing downgrades east of Toronto. Protein in hard reds has been significantly lower than expected in many fields. Straw yields have been very disappointing. Most fields have been cut as short as possible (combine on "float") with yields still below 1 t/ac. Fields with the straw left on the field are the exception this year. Harvest index (ratio grain:straw) has reached an unprecedented 0.67 in some fields. Spring cereals harvest is underway with surprisingly good yields. Quality is excellent. Straw yields are better with the spring cereal crop.

## Soybeans: Horst Bohner

Soybeans fields are variable across the province depending on the amount of rainfall received in a given region. Plants are in the R3 (beginning pod) to R4 (full pod) growth stage. Weather conditions over the next four weeks are crucial to seed development and will play a bigger role in final yield than the first half of the growing season. Spider mites have been a problem across a number of counties. Mites feed on individual plant cells from the underside of leaves leaving stippling. Severe stippling causes yellowing, curling and bronzing of leaves. Left unchecked the leaves will eventually die and fall off. Damage is most severe under hot dry conditions. Spider mites usually start on the edge of the field, but wind can carry them to any part of the field. From the road these pockets can look like drought stress. Fields that are close to neighboring winter wheat stubble, hay fields and no-till fields are more at risk. When scouting look for leaves that appear to be "sandblasted" with many small stippling. Take yellowing leaves and put them over a white piece of paper and then shake the mites off the leaf. Small mites will be visible crawling on the piece of paper. They are only about 1 mm in length so a hand lens may be required. There can be up to seven generations in a given year but a rain or cool weather will reduce numbers in soybean fields naturally. Although one spray generally deals with the mite problem, under severe cases more than one application may be required. Four or more mites per leaflet or one severely damaged leaf per plant prior to pod fill indicates that control is required. Soybean aphid numbers remain low and no spraying has been required for aphids to date.

## Forages & Pastures: Jack Kyle / Joel Bagg

**Pasture:** Pasture growth has ceased in most areas of the province due to heat and lack of moisture. If it is necessary to start feeding on pasture, it is best to feed in one sacrifice pasture to minimize damage to the other pastures. Planting a short season annual crop such as oats following cereal harvest will provide some extra pasture for the fall. Planting as soon as possible will allow this crop to start growing when moisture is available. During this hot weather it is critical that cattle have access to clean water, if your water source is getting low, think about alternative measures to provide water. Using stored forage at this time may leave you short for the normal winter feeding period, match your available feed to your livestock feed needs for the coming year.

**Forage:** Dry weather has significantly reduced forage regrowth and second-cut yields. Many farmers are examining options to increase their forage inventories, including using corn damaged by dry weather for silage <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=4243>. Seeding oats in late-July or early-August following wheat for an early-October harvest can be a useful low-cost option for extending forage supplies. Oats can make good feed when harvested at the correct stage of maturity and made into "outlage" or baleage. Peas can be added where higher forage quality is required. The challenges can sometimes be lack of adequate moisture in August for germination and growth, and having dry enough weather in October for adequate wilting <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=4264>. Potato leafhopper pressure is still high in many areas with considerable damage being done to new seedlings and newer regrowth. Scout these fields and be prepared to spray <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=3902>.

## Insect Update: Tom Cowan

**Corn:** Western Bean Cutworm trap catches have continued to increase over the past 3 weeks. Scouting for egg masses should be well under way in corn fields. Viptera, Herculex and SmartStax Bt hybrids will provide protection from WBC. Field not planted with these hybrids may require rescue treatments if 5% of plants have egg masses or small larvae. Insecticide should be applied at 95% tassel emergence or if tassels are emerged then spray when eggs are expected to hatch.

**Dry Edible Beans:** Western Bean Cutworm prefers to lay eggs on corn at the whorl-to-pretassel stage, though once corn is in tassel or beyond, WBC tend to move into the dry bean crop. In south western Ontario, much of the corn is beyond the tassel stage and moth numbers are close to peak flight. This may mean that bean fields in these areas may experience higher WBC pressure this year as the adults look for suitable sites to lay eggs.

**Soybeans:** In addition to high populations of spider mites, thistle caterpillars are showing up in much higher numbers than previously seen. These caterpillars are the larvae of the painted lady butterfly. The larvae are easy to spot since they tend to use silk to bind leaves together to make a covering where they feed. Usually you will find them on the top leaves of the soybeans plants <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=4276>. There are no registered insecticides in Ontario to control this insect but fortunately, damage looks worse than it is.

## Weather Summary



Location	Jul 18 - Jul 24 2012	Temperature (°C)		Rainfall (mm)	Heat Units CHU	Total Since May 1	
		Max	Min			Rain	CHU
Outdoor	2012	27.9	15.9	24.2	180.4	178.9	1796.5
Farm Show	30 Yr. Avg.	26.1	15.3	19.2	179.9	229	1688.5
Windsor	2012	28.2	18.6	9.3	201.7	226.1	2148.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	27.5	16.7	18.6	191.3	207.8	1849.3
Trenton	2012	29.1	15.3	1.7	182.3	149.7	1880.5
	30 Yr. Avg.	25.9	14.8	17.4	176.3	216.4	1614.7
Mount Forest	2012	26.8	14.6	0.7	174.5	113.5	1720.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	25.2	14.2	18	170.8	228.3	1552.1
London	2012	28.5	16.7	2.6	190.5	147.8	1925.2
	30 Yr. Avg.	26.3	15.4	18	181.2	228.5	1708.3
Hamilton	2012	29.6	16	4.7	184.3	96.7	1848.7
	30 Yr. Avg.	26.3	15.8	20.7	183.8	214.5	1704.3
Ottawa	2012	28.2	14.2	10.4	173.1	135.1	1861.8
	30 Yr. Avg.	26.4	15.2	21	180	241.1	1692
Elora	2012	27.4	14.1	4.8	171.3	102	1729.4
	30 Yr. Avg.	25.7	14.5	19.9	174	226.3	1602.6
Peterborough	2012	28.1	14.4	6.3	177.1	186	1736.4
	30 Yr. Avg.	25.8	14.5	18	174.1	218.9	1590.6

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