

RED WHEAT NEWS

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Hard to Beat Hard Red Wheat

An under supply of hard wheat

means opportunity for growers

"Supply and demand" is the main principle of economics and when supply is short, those that can meet the demand stand to profit. But, when supply exceeds demand, prices fall. Such is the case for growers in Ontario who excel at growing soft wheat, as currently they contribute 1.3-million tonnes of soft red winter wheat for a market that only absorbs 325,000 tonnes. The excess is sold to the United States and other markets. As a result, prices are low.

Meanwhile, Ontario does not have enough hard wheat, which means those

growers who produce it can reap a premium. "There are additional input costs to produce hard red wheat, which might concern some growers," admits Dana Omland, grain merchandising manager for Palmerston Grain. "However, there are price premiums for this wheat because of the low supply, so extra management costs will be offset."

Omland suggests growers need to begin planning now to include hard red wheat in their cropping plans. He says to ask a local agronomist or seed company representative about the



best variety for your area and get some pointers on agronomic management. He suggests success rests in beginning with certified seed to ensure you get maximum return for your crop.

"Quality wheat with high protein is in tight demand," Omland states. "Planting issues in the US hard wheat growing areas have created increased optimism for hard red winter wheat prices."

It may seem early, according to Omland, but it is worthwhile to

consider working some hard red wheat into your rotation. "It might be useful to plan for fall planting for the 2010 crop year," he suggests. As of May, 2010 bids at Palmerston Grain are in excess of \$250/mt, plus premiums for protein, which makes Omland's suggestion worth considering. There is currently as much as \$37/mt price advantage over soft red winter wheat.

With demand high for hard red wheat, growers should be planning their fall wheat planting intentions now. ○

A Strong Stand of Wheat

Getting a good wheat stand in spring 2010 requires planning now.

Spring 2009 offered a disappointing picture to growers scouting their fields to see how their winter wheat crop survived the previous season. Around 11% per cent of wheat acres had to be replaced and while some of the problem can be blamed on the weather, management factors may have also played a role. Some growers were able to

salvage their crop with fertility, but it is likely they made some sound management choices to get the crop through to spring. With this experience behind them, growers should now consider what could have been done differently and adjust their management for this coming fall.

To begin, knowing that Ontario winters can be harsh and unpredictable, growers should do everything possible to give the crop as much support and strength before winter sets in.

"Growers need to first look at their varieties and then buy certified seed," advises Scott Ewert, Syngenta Crop Protection's Seed Treatment Specialist for Eastern Canada. "Certified seed comes with purity and vigour standards that guarantee good emergence and a strong stand." But, planting certified seed isn't enough, he adds, the seed needs to be protected as well. Ewert suggests using a proven seed treatment to protect the seed from fungus and insects.

"When it comes to disease and insect control, using the combination product Cruiser Maxx Cereals will protect the seeds from fusarium and rhizoctonia, wireworms and grubs," Ewert explains. "Seed that is protected against those stresses will produce a better stand."

Barry Gordon, Sales and Marketing Manager for C&M Seeds offers some more management advice to improving wheat stands. "Plan to seed winter wheat at the optimum date in your area," he says. "Ensure your seedbed is fit and has a moisture level which ensures good seed to soil contact. Always plant the optimum population of seed and plant a certified, commercially treated variety that is adapted to your area." He says that fields that had good seed populations were more successful in spring 2009 as were fields with a good fertility program.

Starting with protected seed is only the beginning. Fertility plays a large role in improving a crop's chances. Peter Johnson, wheat specialist with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural

Affairs (OMAFRA) says wheats' response to seed placed starter fertilizer is three times that of corn. "Wheat has a huge demand for phosphorus and placing it near the seed is key," he says. "In my plots, there was a 7.5 bu/ac yield improvement with seed placed fertilizer." He insists the nutrient must be seed placed because the same results will not occur with a broadcast application.

In spring 2009, when some winter wheat struggled, Johnson says those who took the gamble and put on an early application of nitrogen were rewarded. Knowing the nitrogen would be there for corn if the wheat wasn't worth the effort, these growers were surprised at the positive results. "With borderline crops waiting to put on nitrogen can work against you," says Johnson. The boost of nitrogen stimulated tillering and improved the chance of saving the stand.

Learning from the previous season allows growers to adjust and improve their management strategies. It's not too early to start planning for fall planting and by following all the guidelines of these experts, even poor weather may not be able to prevent a good stand of wheat from growing. ○

Top Tips for Ensuring a Strong Wheat Stand

- 1 Choose certified seed
- 2 Treat seed for insect and disease problems
- 3 Place starter fertilizer near seed
- 4 Boost the crop with a nitrogen application in the spring
- 5 Scout for problems throughout the season

Got weeds? Consult



If you need help planning your weed control, this website offers answers

With so many weeds and so many products for control, it's sometimes difficult to know how best to protect your crop. Now a handy tool to help with weed control decisions is only a click away on the internet. Weedpro75 from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), uses University of Guelph data, information from crop protection companies and web access to suggest ways to control that patch of nightshade that threatens your yield. "Weedpro has been used successfully in wheat fields that have diverse weed populations," explains Mike Cowbrough, OMAFRA weed management specialist. "Weedpro matches the best product for the crop to control the weed population in your field."

Using an extensive database of weeds and product labels, the site intuitively seeks out the best solutions when combined with field data supplied by the user. To begin, select your crop and then enter your field data, such as anticipated yield and timing for herbicide application. In step 3, you select the weeds present in your field including their size and density. Click on "Results" and the website will search thousands of options to come up with a list of solutions rated from best to least. Users then scroll through the options to choose the right one for the field.

"Fields have different weed populations and it is hard to determine the most appropriate herbicide treatment for the spectrum that is

"Weedpro75.com matches the best product for the crop to control the weed population in your field."

present," Cowbrough continues. "With cereals, there are many configurations from the different varieties to those that are under seeded with another crop. Weedpro offers options and minimizes the risk of making inappropriate choices."

As an example, Cowbrough says that giant ragweed isn't on herbicide labels, but the University of Guelph has enough trials completed to determine which products might work. "This is real time research data," he explains. "If it isn't in the database, we haven't done work on it yet." In fact, he adds, Dr.'s Sikkema, Swanton and Tardif of the University of Guelph work tirelessly on keeping research information current, which makes the accuracy of Weedpro more relevant. The goal of Weedpro75, which is also supported by the Ontario Wheat Producer's

Marketing Board, is to help growers make the best decisions in a timely manner. According to Cowbrough, the researchers and specialists wanted their work to be as accessible as possible to all growers. "With Weedpro the weed species you care about is focussed on and the rest are filtered out," he says. "In five minutes you can know what products to buy, the rate is calculated, your field information is stored for future reference, and you will get a cost calculation." When time is tight and there are numerous crops and fields needing attention, Weedpro75 can relieve the pressure on choosing which weeds need controlling and how best to accomplish the task. ◉

New, New & New!

New Wheat Varieties will Benefit Ontario Growers.



lighter soils; it seems to fit best in Area 2. It is short strawed with excellent straw strength and threshability."

"Stanford also seems to genetically achieve protein easier," adds Gordon.

Princeton (registration pending) seems to be adapted to a wide spectrum of soils and works very well in all winter wheat growing areas of Ontario. Princeton (registration pending) has top yields in Area 1, which makes it a good choice for that area, according to Gordon. "This variety looks phenomenal in all areas, but really stands out in Area 1," he continues. Growers can look forward to having a hard wheat variety that has proven to yield better than many soft wheat varieties this fall.

As for the new soft wheat variety, Palmer (registration pending) offers excellent yield potential across a wide variety of soil types. "Palmer had top yields in all areas of the province and a top disease package with consistent tolerance to most common diseases in trials," comments Gordon. Exceptional threshability and very good rust and mildew tolerance make Palmer (registration pending) a great choice for soft wheat growers.

Despite introducing two hard red winter wheats this year, Gordon says Stanford and Princeton are different enough from each other that each should find a place in growers' cropping plans.

With three new varieties to choose from, growers will have every opportunity to experience new, improved genetics this fall. ◉

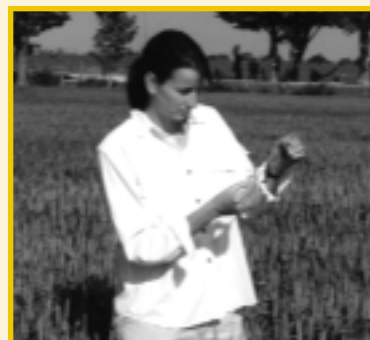
Three new wheat varieties offer growers new production opportunities. **Stanford** HRWW, **Princeton** HRWW (registration pending) and **Palmer** SRWW (registration pending) are new for the field in 2009.

"These are exciting opportunities for growers," says Barry Gordon, Sales and Marketing Manager for C&M Seeds. "All have yield improvements, which is the number one trait we look for. After all if a new variety hasn't improved yield, it is hardly new."

Ellen Sparry, the genetics manager for C&M Seeds says all three varieties have good test weights and, in general, good disease tolerance. "Stanford has good yield potential, but is best suited to

Wheat Industry Newsmaker

C&M Seeds Recognizes Stephanie Franck



For Stephanie Franck, plant breeding is one of the most fascinating things in the World and since childhood she has been involved in the complex science of wheat breeding.

For Stephanie, leading a world renowned wheat breeding business is a dream come true. PZO Pflanzenzucht Oberlumpurg, a family owned and operated wheat breeding business based in Germany, continues to serve the wheat industry with leading genetics and Stephanie is responsible for ensuring that the future is bright.

"Plant breeding allows us to continually provide new products with better characteristics, and qualities," says Franck. "Dealing with the most complex genome in the world can be both challenging and rewarding," she continues. Franck started her agricultural career in Economic and Environmental law specializing in plant genetic resources and Intellectual Property rights, but soon her passion for plant breeding led her home to operate the family business.

Whether the future brings biotech engineered wheat or further developments with conventional wheat breeding, one thing is certain, the wheat industry has to find a way to 'earn their fair share' for the genetics that continue to improve profitability for the farming industry. "It has been a challenge to make a return on the substantial investment that wheat breeding takes," Franck admits. "This issue needs to be addressed to ensure that plant breeding continues to evolve as it has in the past".

In the more nearby future, current projects are looking at the healthy benefits of ancient wheats like Spelt, healthier proteins and antioxidants, abiotic stress (heat and drought tolerance), and fusarium head blight.

One thing is for sure, the future of Ontario's wheat industry is sure to be bright with people like Stephanie Franck passionately leading the way. ◉