



Notes & Quotes

Montana Seed Growers
Association

Summer 2013

2013 Growing Season

Ron Larson

Here we are in the midst of the drama of the 2013 growing season. As the season progresses, weather related issues are having their usual influence on the process. We have heard reports of many hail storms that may rather dramatically affect seed supplies of some commodities. Today, as I write this article, growers are assessing the damage done by last night's strong winds and major league hail in Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson counties. Over-all, our field inspectors are reporting minor hail damage in many and various fields across the state.

MSGA has experienced a milestone of sorts this season, in that more than 101,000 acres have been applied for in the program, surpassing last year's new record of some 80,000 acres, approximately a 25% increase. The largest acreages per crop kind include:

Hard Red Winter Wheat	24,366
Hard Red Spring Wheat	22,647
Field Pea (Yellow and Green)	22,415
Barley	13,117
Alfalfa	3,776

Since peas are quickly becoming such a large crop kind to be dealt with, I thought I would deal with their handling as part of this article. MSGA experienced a number of issues related to final certification of many lots of seed peas, mainly due to conditions causing poor germination. So here are some ideas and suggestions for maximizing germination levels on field peas for seed. Peas that have cracked seed coats will likely display lower germination values. So here are some ideas to help avoid this cracking issue.

1. Try to harvest peas on the higher moisture percentage side of your harvest window. Harvesting peas at 8% moisture presents a danger in this area. The MSU Montguide, [Growing Dry Pea in Montana](#), states that harvest at 18% moisture may be best, long-term storage at 14% or lower. Producers may be wise to cut only during early morning hours if the overall crop moisture level falls too low.
2. Check combine settings for minimal damage and loss during harvest. Considerations include ground speed and pick-up reel speed (to avoid pod shattering at the header) as well as adjustment of concave clearance and cylinder speed to minimize seed cracking.
3. Minimize distances of seed drop into hopper boxes and bins. Seed that is bouncing on concrete or metal floors is apt to crack or at least damage the seed coat. Rubber conveyor belts make the best seed movement machinery, but at least consider the use of plastic flighting in traditional augers if belt conveyors are not available.

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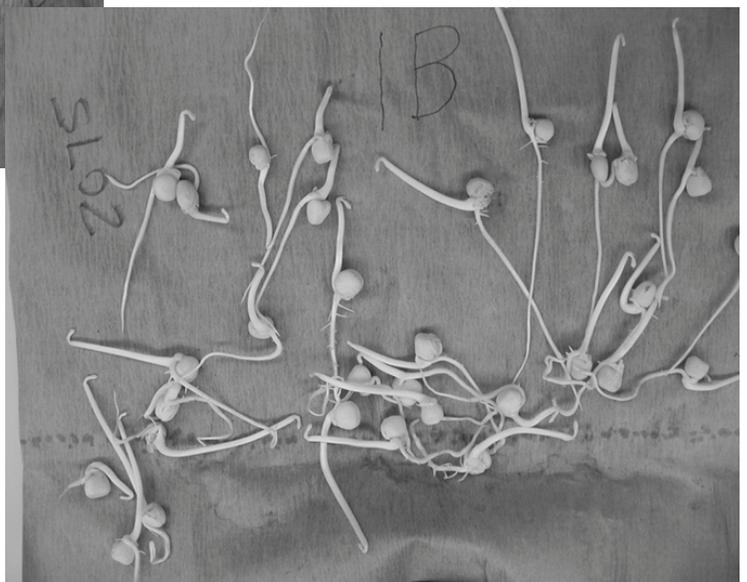
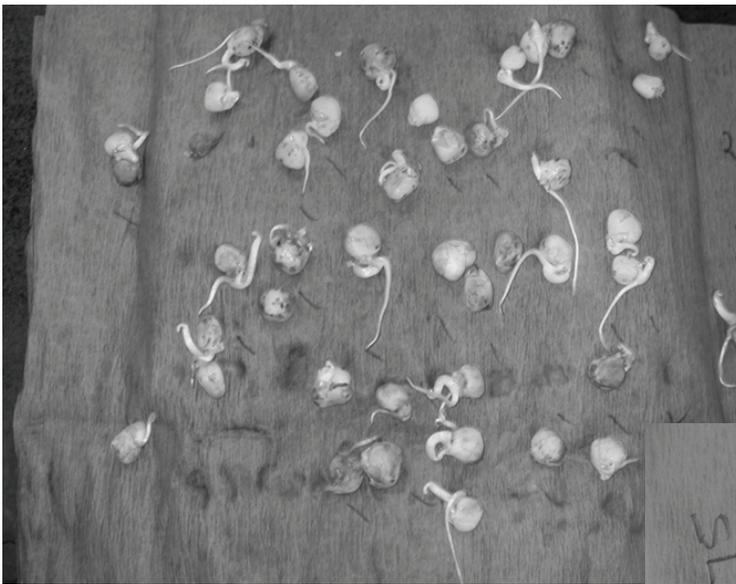
**The 2013 All
Crop Directory is
now available on
our website.**

2013 Growing Season continued...

4. Plan to process and condition pea seed in the fall before temperatures fall too low, if possible. Cold temperatures cause seed to become more brittle, a factor that could risk the quality of your seed even if you handled everything else correctly. And waiting for seed temperatures to rise in the spring before processing may not jive well with early marketing plans.

5. When sending pea samples through the mail, pack samples in a box with some padding to avoid sample damage. Sending a sample in the mail in the MSGA cloth bag alone could result in a poor germination and improper representation of your seed lot's germination performance.

At the end of the day, these two words should summarize harvest and post-harvest management of field peas for seed – Handle Gently. I have included a couple of pictures of damaged pea samples taken at the end of the lab germination process to demonstrate how a damaged seed lot might appear to the analyst. This first picture shows seeds with poor germination. The second picture is an illustration of good germination at the end of the testing process.



Passages

R.J. (Roland James) Walker, long-time seed producer from Lindsay, MT, passed away July 18th at the age of 84. R.J. farmed in the Lindsay area for more than 60 years and was an active and dedicated Certified seed producer most of those years. R.J. worked diligently to build his farming operation into a successful seed and chemical business. Survivors include his wife Bernice Walker of Lindsay, Montana; children, Rebecca A. Walker of Glendive, Ned D. Walker of Lewiston, Clayton M. Walker of Lindsay, and Barbra (Terry) Doherty of Snohomish, Washington; grandchildren, Mathew Walker, Jenna Doherty and Jillian Doherty; sisters, Laurel Reinholz of Billings, Montana and Janice Wilske of Yakima, Washington and numerous nieces and nephews.

State Seed Lab

- As of August 1, 2013 Pam Burkenpas has been hired as the Program Assistant and Receptionist at the Seed Lab. We welcome Pam to her permanent position as part of the seed lab team.
- As a reminder all 2013 seed will go through a 5 day pre-chill to break any dormancy. Please plan accordingly and send in your samples for germination testing as soon as possible. On cereal grains a TZ test is available for an additional cost of \$44.
- BSMV tests will be run October-November and again February-March.

Upcoming Dates

- September 1: SeCan Royalties Due
- October 1: North Dakota Research Fees Due
- October 11-13: Young Ag. Leadership Conference-Fairmont Hot Springs
- October 25-26: MSU Celebrate Ag!! (Ag Appreciation Weekend)-Bozeman
- September 17-19: Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture-Miles City
- December 3-5: MGGA Annual Meeting & Trade Show-Great Falls
- January 16-18: MAGIE Show-Great Falls
- January 29-31: MABA-Great Falls
- February 20-22 MATE Show-Billings

**Montana Seed Growers
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Phone: (406) 994-3516
Fax: (406) 994-1725
www.ag.montana.edu/msga

“Look for the Tag on the Bag!”

**Please note we now have a new
UPS/FedEx address:**

Montana Seed Growers Association
Marsh Labs-Modular 1
1911 West Lincoln Street
Bozeman, MT 59718

USPS mail goes to the P.O. Box

**NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOZEMAN, MT**

PERMIT #127

Notice on Canceled Acres

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A FIELD YOU WANT TO CANCEL FROM CERTIFICATION, PLEASE LET THE FIELD INSPECTOR KNOW AHEAD OF TIME SO THE INSPECTOR WILL NOT HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP TO THE FIELD. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE INSPECTOR, PLEASE CALL THE MSGA OFFICE AT 406-994-3516. FIELD INSPECTOR INFORMATION IS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.

ANY GROWER WHO CANCELS ANY FIELD BEFORE INSPECTION WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OF ACREAGE FEES FOR THE CANCELLED ACREAGE. Parts of fields may be canceled for a partial refund of fees. It is definitely to the grower's advantage to check out those fields before the inspector comes to determine if the whole field or any parts of the field should be canceled. Refunds will not be issued until all inspections are completed, usually September.