Early morning best time to spray fungicides: trials

Morning or evening dew helps distribute product to infection spots

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Fungicides might be best when applied in the early morning or astring, according to preliminary results.

The best timing for chemical spraying is being studied by the Western Producer research group at Bethel Bridge and by other research partners in Lacombe, Alta., and Peace River, Alta.

“Morning is always a good time, but early morning looks like the best,” said farm manager Ken Coates during a July 30 crop walk. “We definitely want to spray when it’s cool. Morning dew is our friend.”

Coles said some have been showing early morning fungicide application looks like the best research solution.

“Maybe by spraying early in the morning we can get a good efficacy when you have that high dew that day,” he said. “It’s not being prioritized, but we’re seeing results from our tests.”

TOO HOT: Dry southern Alberta weather has kept crop diseases generally at bay this year. However, a disease crop walk hosted by Farming Smarter on July 30 saw farmers and industry personnel.

ABOVE: Rust on a pea seed is a nasty looking ailment. Dry weather has resulted in low levels of the disease, so crop partners at Squamish Chippewa First Nation brought their own samples to the test.

This season will provide a third year of data on a spray timing, so Coates noted results are preliminary.