

We know canola yields better when swathed at 60% seed colour change instead of 30%. But what's the economic risk if Alberta and B.C. farmers don't want to wait any longer?



September 5, 2019 - Issue #23



Photo Credit: Walter Smith, @Smithfamilyseed

Swathing early: Economics

Canola fields swathed at 60% seed colour change (SCC) on the main stem can yield **8% more** than fields swathed at 30% SCC. The spread is even wider with low plant populations where more yield comes from side branches.

With that 8% difference, if a field yields 40 bu./ac. when cut at 30% SCC, it would yield 43 bu./ac. if cut at 60% SCC.

Why would a farmer cut canola early? Maybe the farmer has a lot of acres to harvest and, with the calendar flipping to September, wants to get things moving. If farmers really want to (or have to) swath some fields early, we'd recommend they start with fields where more of the seeds in side branches are firm and where overall field maturity is relatively even. Fields that are uneven (with a lot of mushy seeds in side

branches) would be best left to mature a little more – especially if the canola has a pod-shatter tolerance trait. [READ MORE](#)

Quick survey: If you're swathing canola, will you wait for 60% seed colour change? [Yes](#) [No](#)

In This Issue

> Canola Watch quiz: This Week in Agronomy

Four questions about hot topics in canola agronomy this week. One question is based on Walter Smith's swathing photo above. [TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

> September Patchwork, article #1: Clubroot

If you find canola plants with clubroot galls, take action now. This is especially important (1) if clubroot is new to the farm or (2) if the field is seeded to a clubroot-resistant (CR) variety. [READ MORE](#)

> September Patchwork, article #2: Weeds

If cutting around weed patches this harvest, ask yourself: Why is the patch there? And should I stop the weeds from setting seed? [READ MORE](#)

> What's the point of disease scouting now?

Pre-harvest scouting is a good way to assess severity and make next-year plans. Diseases are usually easy to see and diagnose this time of year. [READ MORE](#)

> Missing pods? Here are 7 common causes

While pre-harvest scouting for diseases and seed colour change, farmers and agronomists may also find missing pods. Why? [READ MORE](#)

> Odd pod carnage could be birds

Canola in Western Canada rarely gets bird damage, but small birds can be attracted to ripening pods. [READ MORE](#)

> What are those geese eating?

Fields with a lot of geese could be fields with a lot of harvest losses. You can take steps to fill more bins and feed fewer birds. [READ MORE](#)

> Bertha spraying and pre-harvest intervals

Feeding continues in the Peace. If a grower decides to spray, choose a product with a pre-harvest interval that fits the situation. [READ MORE](#)

> Want to understand the disease, weeds and insects in your fields?

Then join us at Canola Discovery Forum, November 13-14 in Winnipeg. The program has an integrated pest management (IPM) theme. [READ MORE](#)

> PODCAST: China Update

Host Jay Whetter gets an update on Canadian canola trade with China from Jim Everson, CCC president, and Rick White, CCGA CEO. [LISTEN](#)

ASK A QUESTION

CONTACT THE AGRONOMY TEAM

CANOLAWATCH

FREE, UNBIASED, TIMELY AND RESEARCH FOCUSED.

This report is supported by each of the provincial canola grower associations. For more information on some of their activities, check out the following links:

Alberta Canola has a free e-newsletter called Alberta Canola Connections. Visit albertacanola.com and click the sign-up icon on the right side of the homepage.

SaskCanola has a free e-newsletter called SaskCanola Update. Visit www.saskcanola.com and click the sign-up icon on the right side of the homepage to stay connected.

Stay connected with the Manitoba Canola Growers by signing up for their Canola Crush Newsletter at www.canolagrowers.com

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture & Lands, sponsors Peace River region coverage. For canola activities in British Columbia, visit B.C. Grain Producers Association at www.bcgrain.com.

Copyright © Canola Council of Canada.



Copyright © Canola Council of Canada