



ONTARIO CANOLA GROWERS

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

The Right Time for Soil Sampling -Canola Council of Canada-

Soil sampling just prior to seeding provides the most accurate measure of nutrients available to the crop, but the springtime slot has practical limitations. Fall soil sampling can be almost as accurate and has various advantages: less time pressure to get samples collected and analyzed, especially if done after harvest; more time for fertilizer planning, including variable rate prescription maps; and the opportunity to buy the right amount of fertilizer at a lower price. (Prices are often, but not always, lower in the fall.)

The best time for fall sampling is after soil has cooled to at least 10°C. Cool soils reduce the microbial activity that can mobilize nutrients. Soil samples collected after this activity slows down will more closely reflect spring nitrate (NO₃-) contents. If farms plan to band fertilizer in the fall, sampling when soils drop to 10°C (not too much lower), should allow for fall application before the ground freezes.

Sampling immediately after combining may show what nutrients, if any, were deficient for the current year's crop, but early fall sampling is not recommended for planning

next year's fertilizer rates. Changes in nitrogen levels often occur after sampling due to moisture-fueled mineralization and losses to leaching, denitrification and immobilization.

Composite Samples: One composite sample per field can provide a general impression of soil nutrient levels. For the composite, take 15-20 sub-samples from the most productive areas – not hill tops, not low spots, not saline areas. Divide each core into two or three soil depths and put them into separate pails. Suggested depths are 0-6" and 6-24", or a three-way split of 0-6", 6-12" and 12-24". With the 15-20 sub-samples separated by depth, blend those samples to create one composite sample per depth. Submit each depth in its own sample bag.

With one composite sample per field, farmers can create fertilizer blends specific to the needs for each field. If field-specific fertilizer blends are not logistically possible, a compromise is to apply the same blend, but at different rates, to match the yield goal for each field.

Zone Samples: For more precision, collect separate samples from common zones within the field. Zones are generally based on productivity differences that can be fairly predictable based on soil characteristics, drainage or elevation. Three zones could be hilltop, mid-slope and low-lying areas. Five zones would delineate the side slope positions. For each zone, follow sampling methods similar to the composite sample technique. This could mean six or more samples per field (two depths for three zones, for example), but this method can provide meaningful results for fields with higher levels of soil variability, and can point to the value of variable-rate fertilizer applications.

Canada Post Publications Agreement #40013291



A New Canola Midge Pest in Ontario

By Angela Gradish and Rebecca Hallett

School of Environmental Sciences, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph

Until recently, the swede midge, an invasive pest of brassicaceous crops, was thought to be the only gall midge pest of canola in North America. However, a newly described species, the canola flower midge (CFM) (*Contarinia brassicola*), was recently discovered across the canola-growing regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. CFM larvae feed within developing canola flower buds, which results in a distinct bottle-shaped flower gall. Affected buds fail to flower or produce seed. However, it isn't known yet what - if any - impact CFM is having on canola production in Canada.

Following the discovery of CFM in western Canada in 2016, we started looking for canola flower galls characteristic of CFM in Ontario, but to date, we haven't found any. However, in 2021, we captured CFM males on traps baited with CFM pheromone lures in relatively high numbers at several spring canola fields in Dufferin County, Wellington County, Bruce County, and the Kawartha Lakes region. These observations, combined with the fact that CFM is believed to be native to North America, suggest that CFM has been established in Ontario for some time.

The swede midge (SM) (*Contarinia nasturtii*) is well known by Ontario canola growers. It's a devastating pest that has directly resulted in a 53% decline in canola acreage in Ontario since 2011. However, because CFM, a close relative of SM, is present in Ontario and apparently using canola as a host plant, some of the damage previously thought to be caused by SM might actually be caused by CFM.

Although there are management recommendations for SM in canola, they may not be

effective for CFM if there are differences in development, seasonal presence, insecticide susceptibility, and behaviour between the two species. So far, there have been only a few studies of CFM, and all of them were conducted in Western Canada. These studies provide valuable preliminary insight into CFM biology; however, additional studies are needed on CFM in Ontario. Differences in climate, canola acreage, non-crop plants in the landscape, and other canola insects between Western Canada and Eastern Canada may translate into differences in the timing of CFM development and behaviour, and therefore different management requirements, between these regions.

Studies of CFM in Ontario are needed to determine its pest status, the risk it presents to Canadian canola production, and how best to manage it. Ultimately, this information may help increase Ontario canola yields beyond what has been achieved by targeting managing efforts at SM.



The canola flower midge, or Contarinia brassicola, adult female (preserved in ethanol).



The ACA was formed to ensure that Canadian farmers and ranchers are included in important discussions about environmental policies and regulations that directly affect their businesses and livelihoods.

ACA members include the Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Grain Growers of Canada, Canadian Pork Council, National Cattle Feeders’ Association, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, National Sheep Network, Turkey Farmers of Canada, Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada, the Canadian Egg Hatching Producers, Mushrooms Canada, Canadian Seed Growers’ Association and the Canadian Forage and Grasslands.

The ACA will ensure that Canadian farmers’ sustainable practices are recognized through a policy environment that maintains their competitiveness, supports their livelihoods, and leverages their critical role as stewards of the land.

To support farmers in these efforts, ACA is supporting Huron-Bruce MP Ben Lobb’s Bill C-234 which seeks

to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act to extend the exemption for qualifying farming fuel to marketable natural gas and propane.

“Canola farmers are committed to a sustainable future and have established production goals to support that commitment. I have made investments on my farm to retrofit my natural gas grain dryer, making it more energy efficient. While this is an important step, farmers today simply do not have viable fuel alternatives available for drying grain, which is why Bill C-234 is so important.” says Mike Ammeter, Chair of Canadian Canola Growers Association

Unfortunately, the carbon price rebates for farmers outlined in Bill C-8 do not adequately respond to the breadth and variety of carbon surcharges applied to farms. C-234 would provide a complete exemption for essential activities that lack viable alternatives and leave the money in farmers’ pockets to make timely investments in their operations.

Currently, farmers pay a carbon price for utilizing natural gas and propane for essential farming activities such as grain drying, irrigating their land, and heating or cooling barns. With no viable alternatives, pricing these activities does not provide the adequate signal to lower emissions from these energy sources.

Agricultural production has increased significantly while total emissions from the sector have been relatively stable for 20 years, resulting in a decrease of GHG emission intensity of 50% from 1997 to 2017.

Retro-Active Fertilizer Tariff

OCGA Joins Industry Voices for Reprieve

OCGA added its voice to a joint news release over the summer in response to the Government of Canada imposing tariffs on fertilizer purchased from Russia prior to the start of the war with Ukraine.

As a result, the industry has engaged in numerous media interviews over the past couple of weeks. Other partners include Ontario Bean Growers, Atlantic Grains Council, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Fertilizer Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Grain Farmers of Quebec, Ontario Agri Business Association, Sylvite, and Solio Agriculture. Together we are collaborating to bring awareness of this to government and are hopeful that these concerted efforts will have a positive outcome for our growers. Meetings are continuing with MPs as farmers continue to receive bills for tariffs on fertilizer purchased in 2021.



OCGA EVENTS

Fall Industry Meeting-Online Thursday, November 24th 2022 9:00am (Zoom link on website)

District Meetings:	Election Date:	Location:
1– Northern– North of Tobermory	Mon., Nov 28 th , 2022 7:30 pm	Coeur du Village Community Centre– Earleton, ON
2– Central– South of Tobermory/North of Guelph	Tues. Dec 6 th , 2022 7:00 pm	Homestead Golf Resort, Durham, Ontario
3– Eastern– East of Pickering	Thurs., Dec 1 st , 2022 7:00 pm	Zoom link and phone number posted on website
4– Southern– South of Guelph	Fri., Dec 2 nd , 2021 8:30 am	Zoom link and phone number posted on website

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 26th 2023

Nottawasaga Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Alliston, ON

60 Elora Street South, PO Box 100

Harriston, ON., N0G 1Z0

Email: ryan@ontariocanolagrowers.ca

Website: www.ontariocanolagrowers.ca