

ONTARIO CANOLA GROWERS

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

Canola Farming Challenges

Farming has always been known to have its fair share of challenges and canola farming is no exception. On September 9th, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced its initiation of an anti-dumping investigation into Canadian canola seed. This follows the September 3rd notice of China's pending investigation and outlines the first steps including a dumping investigation period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and an industry injury investigation period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2023.

Jennifer Doelman, OCGA Director and Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) Director from Ontario appeared on a number of television and radio news segments talking about the potential impact to Ontario Canola farmers. Since that time, CCGA has taken a leadership role in providing information for the investigation and working towards a resolution.

In the CCGA September news release they indicate: The CCGA is working closely with fellow stakeholders and government to understand the full extent of the investigation.

"We are confident that Canada's canola trade aligns with our commitment to rules-based trade and will continue to uphold these standards and stress the importance of open market access for farmers," says Rick White, President & CEO: "At this early stage, we are not yet

able to understand the full impact this trade action will have on Canadian farmers."

This investigation, in addition to delays at the Port of Vancouver, labour disruptions at terminal dealers as well as the rail strikes earlier this summer has made 2024 canola farming more challenging or worrisome. OCGA continues to represent Ontario farmers wherever possible and will advocate on their behalf. If you have any questions please contact our office or your District Directors.



Canada Post Publications Agreement #40013291

Clubroot on Canola in Northern Ontario

Mary Ruth McDonald, Bruce D. Gossen and Meghan Moran

Clubroot of canola, is an important disease on the Canadian Prairies, and continues to spread in canola fields in northern Ontario, sometimes causing severe crop losses. The disease is caused by a soilborne plant pathogen that produces microscopic resting spores in infected or 'clubbed' roots. The spores are released into the soil when the clubbed root rots. The spores can survive for some years and are easily moved to other fields - usually this occurs via infested soil on farm equipment - or if water moves the soil.

The weather conditions this spring in northern Ontario were very good for infection of canola by the clubroot pathogen. Warm (> 12° C), wet soils are ideal for infection. In warm wet soils, the spores germinate, the pathogen swims to roots and infects first the root hairs and then the main root. The pH of the soil can be important. Clubroot infection is highest at soil pH < 7.0, especially 5.0 – 6.5. Vegetable growers often add lime to raise the soil pH to 7.2 or higher to suppress clubroot, but this is likely not practical for most canola growers.

If clubroot is found in your fields or in your neighbourhood, research from the Prairies and in Ontario indicates that a combined approach can be highly successful for managing clubroot. First, growers need to reduce the levels of resting spores in the soil to the point where canola can be grown again. This is accomplished using crop rotation. Then grow only canola varieties with resistance to clubroot. These have 'first generation' or 'second generation' resistance, referring partly to when they were developed. In general, varieties with first generation resistance have a single resistance gene. Most of the clubroot in northern Ontario can overcome first generation resistance, so using varieties with second generation is recommended.

Approach for clubroot management:

- Have a minimum 2 year break from canola and other brassica crops, such as camelina. Be sure to remove volunteer canola and susceptible weeds (weeds in the mustard family such as pennycress, shepherd's purse etc.) in the fields during those break years.

- After the break, grow a clubroot-resistant variety. For Northern Ontario, this should be a variety with 'second generation' resistance, based on testing at the University of Guelph.
- Plant canola as early as possible. There are many reasons for choosing when to plant, but getting the canola crop growing before the soil is warm enough for clubroot infection can be helpful.
- Selection of other crops or cover crops: Research has shown that spring wheat, barley and some grass cover crops such as ryegrass, can help reduce the amount of clubroot that survives in soil or moves between fields. This probably also applies to winter wheat, but those trials have not been conducted yet.
- If clubroot has been found in a field, try to avoid moving any soil to other fields. Cultivating or harvesting an infested field last is one approach to keeping other fields clean.

The canola group led by Dr. McDonald at the University of Guelph can do testing to see if the clubroot organism in a field can overcome first generation resistance. We are interested in working with crop consultants and growers to test clubbed roots from more fields.

Contact Dr. McDonald: email mrmcdona@uoguelph.ca or Meghan Moran at meghan.moran@ontario.ca



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2025-2026

If you grow Canola in Ontario and are interested in participating in the Board of Directors or as a District Representative we are looking for your nomination!

Term Lengths:

Board of Director- 3 years, **District Representative-** 1 year

Time Commitment– OCGA Board of Directors meet approximately 6 times a year including the Annual General Meeting. Most meetings are held via Zoom conference call with meetings lasting an average of 90 minutes. District Representatives should attend the Annual General Meeting and provide input to their local Director. **Compensation-** Directors receive a per-diem and OCGA covers out-of-pocket expenses.

District Call for Nominations	Positions Available:	Nominations Due:
1– Northern– North of Tobermory	1 Director 4 District Reps	January 27th, 2025
2– Central– South of Tobermory/North of Guelph	1 Director 4 District Reps	
3–Eastern- East of Pickering	2 District Reps	
4– Southern– South of Guelph	2 District Reps	

2025 OCGA Nomination Form Due: January 27th, 2025

Mail or Email a Photo of the Nomination Form to:

Ontario Canola Growers Association
PO Box 100, 60 Elora Street South
Harriston, Ontario, N0G 1Z0

or

ryan@ontariocanologrowers.ca

District #: _____

Date: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Signature: _____

Nominator Name or Self Nomination: _____

Signature: _____

-OCGA EVENTS-

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 6th 2025

Nottawasaga Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Alliston, ON

Register online at www.ontariocanolagrowers.ca



Coffee & Canola Speaker Series

Webinar Series with

Meghan Moran, OMAFA Canola Specialist
December 3rd & 17th, at 9:30 am



Dec 3rd Topic- **Harvest Tips from Canola Growers** – Experienced spring and winter canola producers share their top tips for harvest and answer your questions.

Dec 17th Topic - **Clubroot in Canola** –Will Runnalls, OCGA Chair, and Meghan Moran, OMAFA, get answers from clubroot experts about understanding and managing the disease.

Contact meghan.moran@ontario.ca or visit www.ontariocanolagrowers.ca website for Zoom link