

Southwest Crop Diagnostic Days 2015

The Southwest Diagnostic Day program provides seed, fertilizer and chemical industry personnel and agricultural consultants with training in the diagnosis of crop problems and education in advancements in crop production. It was held at University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus on July 8 and 9, 2015 which was the 21th anniversary of this outstanding technology transfer program. Organized by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs the day is designed specifically to hone the problem solving skills of agribusiness representatives through "hands-on" activities related to the correct identification and treatment of crop problems common to southern Ontario. The goal of the Diagnostic Days program is to provide quality training in all aspects of crop production and management. Certified Crop Advisors who participated were able to obtain 5.5 CEU credits.

402 participants over two days attended this valuable hands-on learning experience. 100% per cent of the participants who responded to our survey indicated they were highly or very satisfied with the event and 97%% responded the information will assist them in their agribusiness operation. Technology transfer, research and teaching staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus as well as extension colleagues from Iowa State University and private industry were involved in presenting the sessions. This event could only be made possible through the successful partnership of OMAFRA, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus and the Southwest Soil and Crop Improvement Associations along with our sponsors Agris Co-op, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dupont/Pioneer, Monsanto/Dekalb, Great Lakes Grain, and Syngenta.

The topics this year included:

Hitting the Goldilocks Spot - Managing residue and building soil structure for better crop establishment. (SWM)

Roots and Shoots – Digging deeper into cover crops. (SWM)

Weed-posium Workshop - Problematic Pigweeds, a small group that presents some big challenges. (PM)

Narrowing the Yield Gap of 30" Soybean Rows - Wide rows are becoming more popular and have a number of advantages. Do inputs such as banded fertilizers, foliar fungicides, and foliar fertilizers work ? This stop will also address how light interception impacts yield. (CM)

Timing Matters - Determining cereal stages for application of growth regulators, fungicides and nitrogen. (CM)

Herbicide Injury in Corn - Learn to recognize the symptoms caused by new and common products. (PM)

Herbicide Injury in Soybeans - A hands-on look at herbicide injury in soybeans. (PM)

Feeling the Pressure - How nozzle pressure affects spray quality and coverage. A demonstration of the negative impacts of using spray nozzles outside their ideal pressure range.... and it happens all the time. (PM)

Water Use Efficiency - Is water the next limiting factor in crop production? (CM)
Disease Management and ID - IDing common diseases and management options such as fungicides for soybeans and corn. (PM)

Carbon Copy Corn Plants - Quantifying plant stand variability and its impact on corn yield potential (CM)

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Visit our website www.diagnosticrodays.ca for next year's program (July 6 and 7, 2016).

