

## The 2024 Growing Season So Far

Laura Schmidt, MPSG Production Specialist - West

Dry beans have faced more than a few challenges this year. It wasn't that long ago we were putting in bids on how many dry bean acres we'd see this year. Would we be above 200,000 acres? Would it be closer to the five-year average of 155,000? There was a lot of interest going into the spring and tons of potential for the crop.

As of mid-July, things are looking a little more real. With cool, wet conditions prevailing following seeding and throughout June, beans were slow to start this season. Once they were up and out of the ground, high winds added to the landscape, literally moving soil around. This blowing soil caused sandblasting and substantial damage in some fields. Tough reseed-ing decisions needed to be made tight to crop insurance seeding deadlines.

Getting the sprayer into the field for weed control was another chal-lenge. If it wasn't the high winds keeping you parked, it was the excess soil moisture conditions preventing field traffic. Central Manitoba was hit most significantly with a deluge of rainfall that didn't seem to want to dry up. Road access to some fields was also impacted.

Despite these barriers, many fields were showing the results of excellent pre-plant/pre-emergent residual her-bicide programs and the importance of managing perennial weeds or other major weed challenges outside of the dry bean crop year. Now that we've received some heat, dry beans are advancing quickly. There's still a lot of potential for this year's crop, despite earlier challenges.

## MPSG Regional Variety Trials

Jennifer McCombe-Theroux, MPSG Production Specialist - East

Each year, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers (MPSG) conducts regional variety trials at multiple locations across Manitoba for soy-beans, dry beans, faba beans, lupins, and field peas which through the Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Team (McVett). Dry bean variety testing is somewhat unique. Dry bean acres have been mostly made up of one or two varieties per market class. With dry beans being a food grade market, varieties must support

both the end use needs of buyers and the agronomic qualities required for farmers. The regional variety trials support farmers and industry by pro-viding independent and unbiased data, creating an opportunity to test new and existing varieties at both wide and narrow rows. This provides specific variety performance infor-mation to farmers who are utilizing either row spacing.

### consumer corner

## Sharing Food and Stories with Manitobans



**MANITOBA PULSE AND Soybean Growers (MPSG)** continues to invest in consumer outreach to promote Manitoba grown pulse and soybeans as a nutritious and affordable food option. MPSG is proud to be a part of Manitoba's "most-watched food series", Great Tastes of Manitoba (GTOM). GTOM is the only collaboration of its kind in Canada, connecting Manitobans with dietitians, chefs, home economists and experts from seven different farmer-led organizations in the province.

This spring GTOM wrapped up filming their 35<sup>th</sup> season where you'll meet MPSG's new food expert and professional home economist, Getty Stewart. Stewart shares several delicious recipes featuring dry beans and soybeans, along with a few fun facts! With each episode, a short Produced on the Prairies segment is shared where you'll learn more about farming and the agriculture industry in Manitoba.

Season 35 will be aired on CTV starting this fall and will mark the 19<sup>th</sup> year that MPSG has been a part of the show. Tune in on Sept. 21 to watch our Twisted Classics episode and on Nov. 9 to watch our Power Up with Beans episode (air dates subject to change).

# Desiccation and Pre-Harvest Weed Control

**LAURA SCHMIDT**

MPSG PRODUCTION SPECIALIST - WEST

## CROP DESICCATION AND

pre-harvest weed control have become increasingly hot topics. In part due to consumer demand for pesticide-free products and variable maximum residue limits (MRLs) across export markets. If applied too early, desiccants can lead to higher residues in the seed and reduced yields.

Dry beans are ready for desiccation or pre-harvest weed control applications once they've reached R9 (full maturity). At this stage, plants will have:

- 80 per cent pod colour change
- 80 to 90 per cent leaf drop
- Less than 30 per cent seed moisture in the least mature parts of the field

What does that mean in the field? At less than 30 per cent seed

moisture, seeds will rattle within the lowest pods, upper pods will be yellow and the seeds within the upper pods will have lost their green colour when split.

Consult MPSG's *Dry Bean Desiccation Staging Guide* (see below) for more information.

Ensure products that you choose to apply are approved for your intended market, and that labeled rates and pre-harvest intervals are followed. Consult with your buyer on product choice. Most dry bean dealers don't accept pre-harvest glyphosate on dry beans.

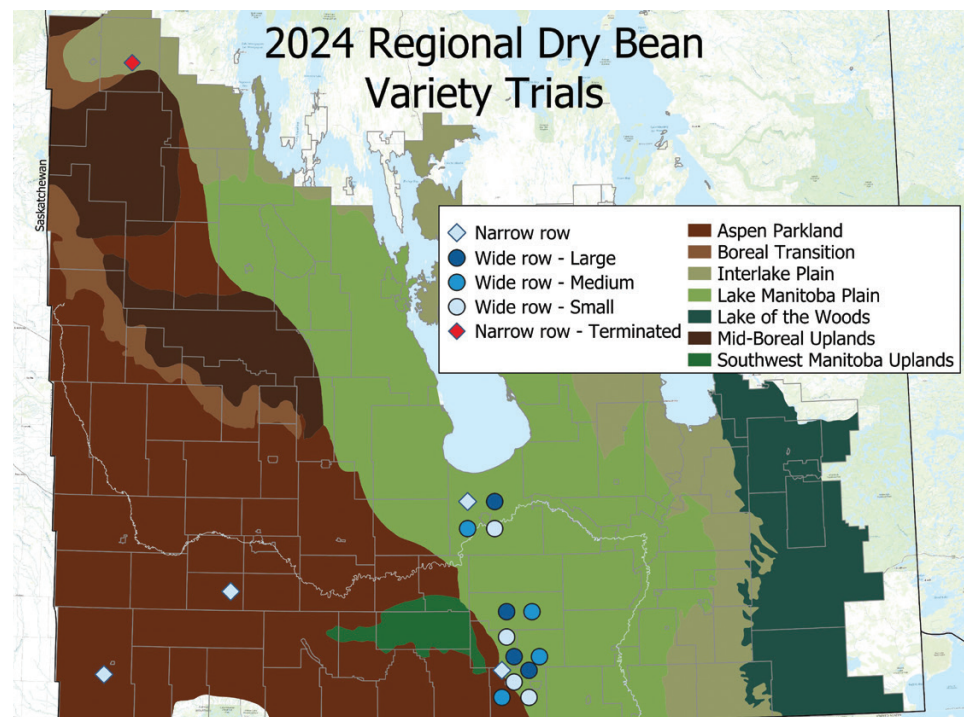
Download the *Dry Bean Desiccation and Harvest Guide* from [manitobapulse.ca](http://manitobapulse.ca)




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### 2024 REGIONAL TRIALS:

- 47 dry bean varieties are being tested on wide rows at Morden, Carman, Winkler and Portage. Market classes include pinto, navy, black, light red kidney, dark red kidney, white kidney, cranberry and great northern beans.
- 22 pinto, black and navy bean varieties are being tested on narrow rows at Morden, Portage, Melita and Souris along with six pinto and black varieties at Swan River.
- Due to extreme plow winds in mid-June the Swan River site was written off.



# Growing Together

## Connections between Morden, Harrow AAFC Dry Bean Breeding Programs

BY **ANFU HOU**, AAFC MORDEN AND  
**JAMIE LARSEN**, AAFC HARROW

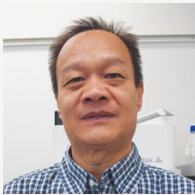
**THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-** Food Canada (AAFC) Morden and AAFC Harrow breeding programs have a history of working together. Previously, breeding populations and varieties for advanced yield trial testing were shared between programs. This will continue and be increased with crossing and generation advancement being completed in Ontario and then populations and varieties being sent for testing at Morden. Based on the performance of these cultivars, the breeding pro-

grams will jointly decide which varieties have merit and be put forward for registration and release.

It's critical to point out that registration of new dry bean varieties is national in scope, meaning a variety can be supported for registration in Western Canada via the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse & Special Crops (PRCPSC) or in Ontario via the Ontario Pulse Crop Committee and then be grown anywhere in the country. This means that Manitoba dry bean farmers will have access to varieties registered in Ontario.

One of the benefits of the changes

to the variety registration operating procedures is that yield and disease data from locations outside of the recognized trial locations for these recommending committees can be used to get a variety registered. As a result, Manitoba data can be used to get a variety registered in Ontario and vice versa. With the linking of the programs and the sharing of germplasm development and testing, any variety from the AAFC breeding program at Harrow will have a Manitoba data package so farmers and seed companies will have that information to decide if that variety will work for them.



**ANFU HOU** is a Research Scientist with AAFC at the Morden Research and Development Centre (MRDC). Hou serves as the AAFC advisor on the Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers (MPSG) Board of Directors

and has been working closely with MPSG to address bean production concerns through variety improvement and agronomy research. Hou has been a bean breeder with AAFC since 2008. His current research responsibilities include developing early-maturing dry bean and soybean varieties with high yield potentials, improved disease resistance, and marketable seed quality for production in Manitoba and Western Canada. He conducts dry bean breeding and genetic research for resistance to common bacterial blight, anthracnose, root rot, marsh spot, as well as seed quality traits such as seed hardness.



**JAMIE LARSEN** is a research scientist in dry bean breeding with AAFC based in Harrow, Ont. Since 2018, his research program has focused on breeding field-ready varieties with high yields and resistance

to fungal, bacterial, viral and nematode pests. The program also places a large emphasis on method development in dry bean breeding, including speed breeding, high-throughput phenotyping and incorporating near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy to assess dry bean cooking and canning quality. Larsen is a trial coordinator for the Ontario Pulse Crop Committee and a voting member. He has also held roles as president of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, chair of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye and Triticale and currently sits as the public breeder representative on the Seed Regulatory Modernization Working Group.

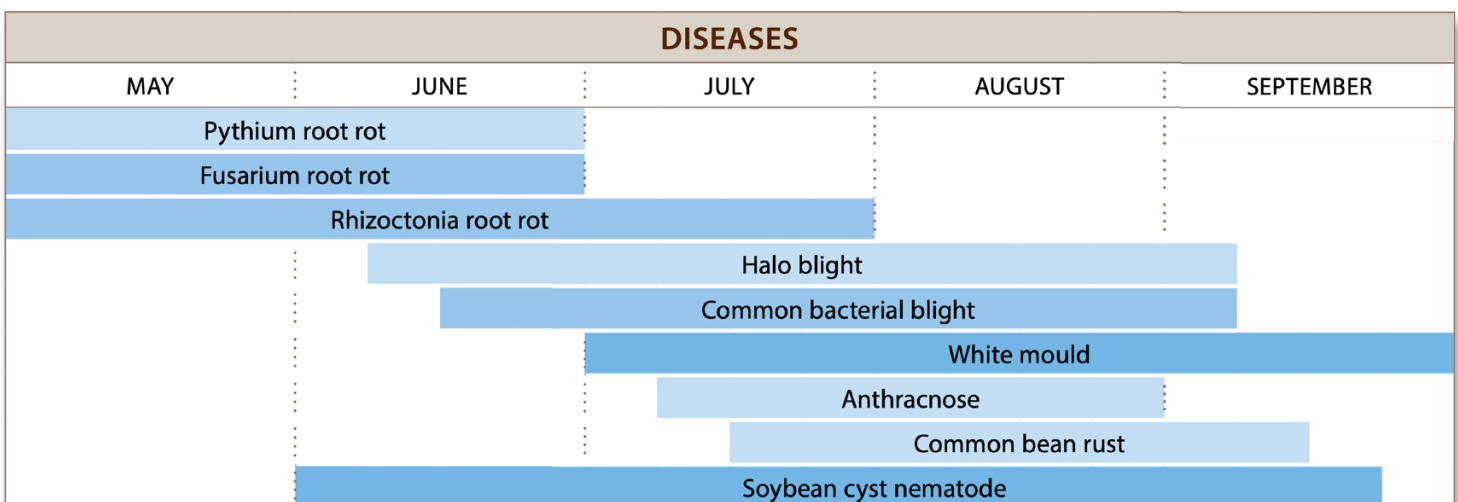
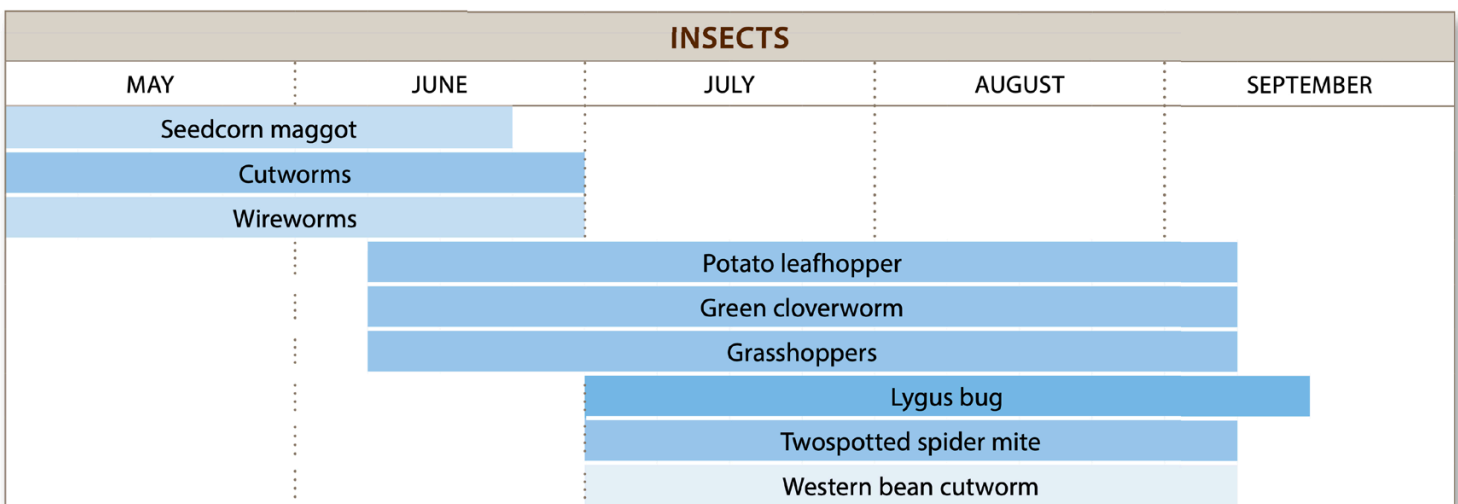
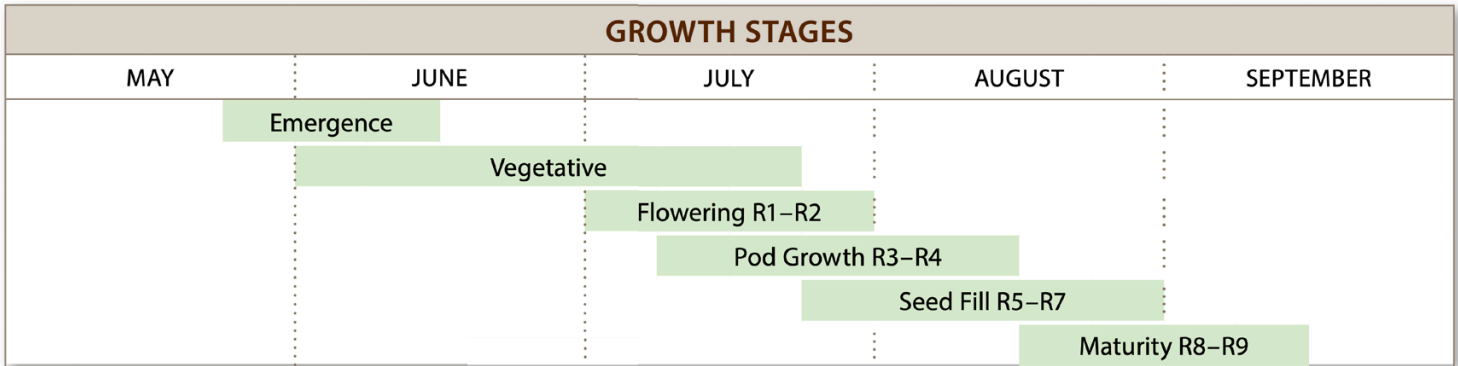


Find all our On-Farm Network dry bean trial results at

[www.manitobapulse.ca/on-farm-network/on-farm-research-reports/](http://www.manitobapulse.ca/on-farm-network/on-farm-research-reports/)







The presence of western bean cutworm has not been confirmed in Manitoba.

### Potential Impact on Dry Bean Production and Quality in Manitoba

