



20/20 Newsletter - As We See'd' It

April 2010

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Save a Sample of Seed This Spring!

When you put the drill away this summer will you have a sample of all of the seed you have sown?

[Click here to take the poll!](#)



Saving a representative sample of all of the seed you sow this spring is an important part of spring seeding and should be a standard practice on your farm.

Collect several primary samples while you are loading the drill and save the composite sample in a sample bag from a laboratory or a clean ziploc bag. Keep the blue tag with the sample and sample each lot of seed separately.

Store the samples in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight and keep the samples until at least the point that you are satisfied with the

Dear Valued Client:

Spring seeding season is almost upon us!

Our season is coming close to slowing down as you get ready to get into the field.

We continue to see unusually high amounts of chemical injury in the laboratory therefore it is important to have a recent germination test on all seed you are sowing this spring, especially for cereals and peas if you have used any pre-harvest desiccant.

It is also a good practice to have a recent germination test (within the past 3 months) on all of the seed you are sowing this spring.

Please remember to save a sample of ALL of the seed you sow this spring. Call us if you need sample bags!

As flax growers you are aware that you need to test for the presence of Triffid and it is imperative that you test your seed before you plant. We are pleased to offer this service to you for BOTH farm-saved and pedigreed seed.

Do not hesitate to contact us on our customer care line at 1-877-420-2099 if you have questions about your seed quality or any other related seed testing issues.

And please take advantage of our new AIR MILES® Reward Program by supplying us with your collector number.

All the best during the spring seeding season and thank you for giving us the opportunity to earn your business this winter.

Sarah

Sarah Foster, President and Senior Seed Analyst

Chemically Damaged Seedlings

Last newsletter we reported on chemically damaged peas however they are not the only crop affected this year.

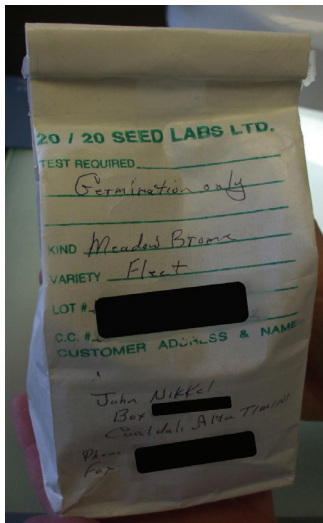
Challenges with environmental and harvesting conditions last fall meant that some cereals and peas were desiccated perhaps a little too early. Using a desiccant on immature

emerged crop.

[Click here](#) to request seed sample bags or contact us at 1-877-420-2099.

A Bit of Seed Sample Bag History

20 year old original 20/20 sample bag resurfaces in 2010.



Thanks to John Nikkel of Brooks, Alberta for perfectly preserving one of the original hand-stamped seed sample bags from the first year of operation of 20/20 Seed Labs.

Your next test is on us John!

[Click here](#) to request new seed sample bags or contact us at 1-877-420-2099.

Flax Testing - TEST BEFORE YOU PLANT THIS SPRING!

Test your pedigreed and farm-saved seed for the presence of CDC Triffid (FP967) BEFORE you plant this spring!

20/20 Seed Labs Inc is an approved lab by the Flax Council of Canada and can accept samples of flax for GMO testing.



plants will lead to chemical injury on seedlings. This season we have seen an exceptionally high number of chemically damaged seedlings. In fact several labs across the prairies have reported "chemical" abnormal seedlings on their germination diagnostic profiles.

Retesting chemically damaged seedlings will incur extra charges...

As a CFIA accredited laboratory we follow standard protocol, first starting the test on a blotter and then following up with a soil retest if chemically injured seedlings are present. The soil retest is automatically applied when the germination result of the seed meets grade.

Inform the lab if a pre-harvest desiccant was used...

We do appreciate knowing in advance if a pre-harvest desiccant was applied. We are not only more informed, but we can save you time as we can plant both on blotter and in soil simultaneously. If we're not informed we are however following through with a retest in soil after we have the clients permission to continue. **There will be an additional Charge of \$40.00 for retests.** If you decide not to retest we will issue an unofficial report.

Please note that retesting in soil is standard practice because quite often the second test in soil is improved. This is true when the chemical residue is only on the surface of the seed. Little improvement is achieved if the chemical has been absorbed by the seed and the damage becomes systemic.

Symptoms difficult to identify...



The symptoms of chemical damage are very difficult to identify especially to the untrained eye. Please don't be fooled if conducting a home germination that all

We provide single and 4 replicate tests for export, farm-saved seed and pedigreed seed growers.

[Click here](#) for more information or contact us at 1-877-420-2099.

www.2020seedlabs.ca/whatsnew.php?id=57

EARN AIR MILES® reward miles!



20/20 Seed Labs Inc. is very pleased to be a sponsor of the AIR MILES® Reward Program. We are offering AIR MILES® reward miles on seed testing, customer referrals and bonuses for new customers.

We appreciate your business and hope you enjoy the AIR MILES® reward miles.

Please call us at 1-877-420-2099 with your Air Miles Collector Number and start earning today!

[LEARN MORE!](#)

at

www.2020seedlabs.ca/tech_bulletin.php?id=55

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sprouts are created equal. Make sure you seek the advice of a qualified seed analyst before you decide to sell or plant your seed. Please also be advised that germination results obtained in the fall may have changed by the spring. It is always good practice to conduct another more recent germination.

Congratulations!

We would like to acknowledge some recent significant achievements of these members of the farming community.



Rene Victoor of Victoor Seed Farms of St. Albert received an award for 50 years of farming as a member of the Canadian Seed Growers Association.



Ryan and Annette Mercer of Mercer Seeds in Lethbridge were selected by Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program to represent Alberta at the National Awards in Victoria this fall.

Meet Your STP



Carey Matthiessen,
Laboratory Manager, Purity
and Germination Analyst

Hello everybody:

I started out in agriculture by scratching a meager wage out of the dirt at a local market garden at the tender age

of 16 during the summer months. This wasn't quite enough to drive the agricultural bug out of my system, so once I left high school, I followed one of my dreams to work on a ranch. I moved to Calgary, where I found a job working as a farm hand for a century ranch called Colpitts Ranches. It was a unique



Events Calendar

Look for us this fall at:

**Agri-Trade 2010
Westerner Park, Red Deer, AB
November 10-13, 2010**

Contact us!

newsletter@2020seedlabs.ca

or

Toll free 1-877-420-2099



experience, with 8 houses for staff directly on the ranch and over 400 head of cattle. I raised calves for a living and spent much of my time on horseback against the surreal backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. Working 16 hour days on back busting labour was, surprisingly, one of the best experiences of my life. However, knowing that I needed to move on and having completed one of my life goals, I moved back to the area I grew up in, and started working for a seed lab in Camrose, Alberta. I spent two years working and training as a Seed Analyst for Alberta Wheat Pool. During this time, I also became a crop inspector for CFIA, as some of you may recognize me from visiting your farms!

Then...the travelling bug bit me.

I left for Australia and New Zealand in the fall to live and work for a year. During this time, I traveled spontaneously, worked at hostels and farms, tried not to wear shoes, etc. It was an amazing experience that saw me return home ready to settle.

I have been at 20/20 Seed Labs since 2005, receiving my full accreditation in 2007. I am now a Senior Analyst, an accredited crop inspector, accredited grader, and have recently taken on the responsibility of Lab Management. I am lucky enough to work in a field that I love and embrace all of the challenges that agricultural life brings.

[Click here to contact me \(\[carey@2020seedlabs.ca\]\(mailto:carey@2020seedlabs.ca\) \) if you have any seed quality questions or just want to say 'Hello'.](mailto:carey@2020seedlabs.ca)

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