



AS WE SEE'D IT

November 2010

Newsletter

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Obtain an Accurate Sample

Seed Testing Professional

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Disease Levels Are on the Rise

Ensure your sample of seed reflects what is in the bin.

When you draw a sample from the bin or your truck how do you ensure that the sample accurately reflects the seed lot?

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

Accurate test results depend on an accurate sample of seed.

An accurate sample requires enough primary samples from multiple locations in the bin or truck to provide a representative composite sample.

Dear Valued Client:

How do you like our new logo? It will be followed by our new website shortly which has been designed with you, our client, in mind. We have concentrated on a platform to provide you with more concise and timely information that is valuable to your operations as well as giving you more information about the tests that we conduct for you on a daily basis.

This season started quickly and as the temperature drops outside the faster your samples seem to be appearing at our lab. We know that harvest in many areas this season have been challenging as well as the spring conditions and the growing season in general. It seems that everyone had a story to tell about their production this year. As a result, germination although overall is good, has not escaped unscathed. We have dormancy levels that we have not encountered before. Please read my short article below. Wheat is especially affected and malting barley is chitted because of high levels of moisture. In fact, all crops are affected by dormancy this year.

Disease levels on germination tests are a concern as well. White mold (*Sclerotinia*) on peas and lentils is particularly troublesome. Whilst retesting in soil is advantageous to obtain the best possible result in the lab, we know that treating this seed with a registered product before seeding will have the most impact in the field. Please call the lab and we will be more than happy to hand treat your sample with a registered product known to treat and suppress the pathogens before you make your final decisions. Please note too that we can provide you with a final Report of Seed Analysis for treated seed.

Fusarium spp. are prevalent on cereals this fall and need to be identified to assess the risk. When submitting your sample for germination it's also a good idea to ask for a complete disease diagnostic profile. We have a number of packages available to you and recommend you use these to learn more about your seed.

We are also very pleased to inform you that we are launching a new DNA-based Blackleg test. We were recently awarded an Alberta Innovates voucher to work in conjunction with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures to develop a new technique. This rapid and



The composite sample should then be mixed and divided to provide a sample that is submitted to the laboratory and a retained sample for your archives.



Detailed information on sampling techniques are available from the [Canadian Grain Commission](#) or [CFIA](#)

Contact us to learn more about becoming an Accredited Grader or an Authorized ISTA Sampler.

[Click here](#) or call us at 1-877-420-2099 to request seed sample bags or more information on seed sampling.

Flax Testing Update! - ALL FLAX SAMPLES NOW REQUIRE A 4-REPLICATE TEST

accurate methodology is soon to be exclusively available at 20/20 Seed Labs Inc.

All the best during the fall season and thank you for giving us the opportunity to earn your business.

Sarah

Sarah Foster, President and Senior Seed Analyst

Dormancy Delays Germination Results for Cereals

Wheat, Barley and Oat samples are prone to dormancy shortly after harvest. This season we are observing more dormancy on wheat and barley than in previous years. The reason for the dormancy is that seed was harvested either with a higher than usual moisture and or with some immaturity. Most, if not all seed, has to have a period of rest after harvest. During this rest period seed dries and matures, and enzyme activities take place for the seed to be capable of developing into a healthy plant again.



Dormant seeds on a blotter after 7 days

In the seed testing laboratory we can overcome most cases of dormancy thereby producing results that will correlate with field emergence next spring. The seed is exposed in the germination test to either a pre-chill period of 3 or more days depending upon the severity of the dormancy or by using a growth hormone or growth stimulant known as Potassium nitrate (KNO_3)

Extended testing is required

As of September 1, 2010 all flax entering the commercial grain handling system is now subject to more rigorous testing for the presence of CDC Triffid than what was previously required.

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



Please submit a 2kg sample for a 4 replicate test for export, farm-saved seed and pedigreed seed growers.

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

[Download the fillable SAMPLE SUBMISSION form now](#)

Meet Your STP



Shauna Sereda, Germination Analyst Trainee

Hello everybody:

A country girl my whole life, I grew up on our family farm near Mirror, Alberta. I left Mirror to further my education at Augustana University, where I

This year we have to extend pre-chill periods with a mid-chill period. The mid-chill is a 3 day chilling after the first count, and is used if high counts of dormant or fresh seeds are observed. For this reason samples using this method take approximately 3 to 4 days longer.

Dormancy should diminish with time

As the season progresses, the dormancy will decrease or disappear completely because storage of seed in cold conditions such as bins or Quonsets helps to combat this phenomenon. Eventually, nature will take its course and allow the seed to reduce its respiration rate which in turn allows the seed to mature.

Our objective, as always, is to provide our clients with the best possible results, so if you are experiencing a delay, rest assured that we are taking all the necessary steps to ensure that you are getting the best possible germination.

If you are using our website to stay current with your results, there will be a remark noting if your sample has been extended or retested.

Please call us at 1-877-420-2099 if you have any concerns or questions.

Disease Levels on Seed are Increasing

As we all know, this past growing season was much wetter than normal in most areas of Western Canada. One of the results of this weather has been an increase in disease levels of most crops. It was noticeable in the fields and is now evident in the samples of seed we are testing.



Seed-borne pathogens on wheat

One of the largest increases we have seen is septoria (a leaf blotch complex) in samples of wheat, barley and other cereals. It is typical in a wet growing season and results in shriveled grain and slightly lower yields. This fungus (and others) will overwinter in crop residue, so growers need to be aware of methods such as rotation and seed treatments to try and control the disease.

graduated with a B.Sc. in Biology, Honours with Distinction. Finding university education lacking in the "field" of practicality, I spent a year at Olds College learning to weld, perform electrical work, and repair engines.

I worked to put myself through school at various jobs, from Dairy Queen to the Lacombe Research Station, plus I cultivated many "friends" in the Stettler area as the County Weed Inspector. I farmed full time with my parents, who had a 100 sow farrow to finish hog operation, plus farmed 1200 acres of grain. I was my dad's "right hand man" (I have 3 sisters) and learned all the skills of the trade from him (but I can weld better). I spent countless hours cultivating, seeding, swathing, combining, hauling and unloading grain and had many "harrowing" experiences! I thought about pursuing a teaching career and took a few courses at the University of Lethbridge, but it didn't suit me.

My husband Brent and I have a small farrow to finish hog and grain operation on my husband's home place near Thorsby, Alberta. We have 2 handsome young boys, Brent Jr. and Braedyn.

I have been at 20/20 Seed labs since the fall of 2009. I started in sample preparation and then moved to sample entry which honed my computer skills and I found my "phone voice". Realizing my ambition to be a seed analyst, I was able to begin my training this past summer. There have been many challenges faced by farmers this past year and I hope with my knowledge and understanding of

Levels of wheat samples infected with *Fusarium graminearum* are approximately the same as last year (7%) although almost 40% of the durum samples are infected. Barley, oats, and other cereal grains have less than a 2% infection rate. These results are from samples tested to date (October 2010) and levels may change as additional samples are analyzed.

The pulse crops have also had a significant increase in seed-borne pathogens this past season. Sclerotinia stem rot, fusarium root rot, and stemphylium leaf blight are showing up in very high levels relative to past years. A disease that is more common in peas is ascochyta and it continues to be a problem with 95% of the samples tested so far being infected with levels as high as 20%.

What Can I Do?

Request one of our disease packages when you get your seed tested to assist in determining seed quality and seed treatment decisions for next spring. Our Fungal Screen™ for cereals (10 seed-borne organisms) and the Complete Disease Diagnostic™ for pulses (6 seed-borne organisms) list the types of pathogen and the percent infection of each one.

Please contact us for further information and to discuss your disease testing requirements.

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!

these issues I can be an asset to you and 20/20 Seed Labs Inc.

[LEARN MORE!](http://www.2020seedlabs.ca/tech_bulletin.php?id=55)
at www.2020seedlabs.ca/tech_bulletin.php?id=55

[Click here to contact me shauna@2020seedlabs.ca](mailto:shauna@2020seedlabs.ca)

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Events Calendar

Look for us this fall at:

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

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**Seed and Crop
Technology Workshop
Olds, AB**

**November 17 & 18,
2010**

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**Advanced Agronomy
Conference
Nisku, AB
November 24 & 25,
2010**

Quick Links

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seed.ab.ca

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newsletter@2020seedlabs.ca

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Toll free 1-877-420-2099



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