

ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS

Southwestern Ontario

JUNE 2011

Serving Kent, Essex and Lambton County Soil & Crop Members since 1939

WETTEST SPRING IN 30 YEARS!



ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS



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& 2nd Vice President, OSCIA*
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Dave Emery.....519-354-8281

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Brian Hyland.....519-776-7723

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*Annual Memberships are available
through your Treasurer*

Regional Coordinator

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Submissions and advertising welcome.

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St Clair Region—A Note from the Chair

Well crop fans, we are out of the blocks a little late this year but have no fear, it should all work out in the end. So, let's not panic and put those plots in even though it is later. It will be good to know how they do with a later start date.

Check out the weather records - 10 plus inches of rain in May for Essex County! Bug scouting and contract checking are two big points of interest with the weather fueling them both. On the front cover you will see a picture of one of Tracey Baute's (OMAFRA) Western Bean Cutworm Traps (the 'fancy' milk jug style) that will be set up in a network throughout Ontario and Quebec this summer. Let the monitoring begin!

We made some changes and added a few more pages to our newsletter. These extra pages are for you, the readers so let's see some of your input and pictures. We've also added 'mug shots' so you can put a face to a name.

Times are changing and we too are trying to keep up with new things including web sites and social media like Twitter feeds. These developments are taking place across the entire OSCIA network--let's plan to be leaders, not followers. Let Krista know if you are interested in these communication tools.



Henry Denotter, St Clair District Chair & OSCIA Second Vice

COMING EVENTS:

July 6 or 7, 2011 - SouthWest Crop Diagnostic Day, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Univ. of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, \$95 Pre-registration is required - go to www.diagnosticdays.ca/ or contact Mirjam Hall at 519-674-1698

July 5, 6, 7 & 11, 2011 - Solar Energy Information Sessions, All Sessions 7:00 pm, July 5th Ridgetown; July 6th Woodstock; July 7th Guelph; and, July 11th Kingston. Register online at http://www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/bdt/ce_solar.cfm or by phone at 519-674-1500, ext. 63295

July 13, 2011 - Ontario Forage Expo 2011, Elora Research Farms, Ariss, ON. No admission charge for the farming community. Demonstrations start at 10 a.m. Contact Ray Robertson at 1-877-892-8663 or info@ontarioforagecouncil.com

July 14, 2011 - Farm Smart Expo, Elora Research Station, Ariss, ON. 8:45 a.m. OSCIA Members \$50 (Non-OSCIA \$65 includes 1 yr. membership) lunch included. Go to www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart

August 10, 2011 - Lambton Soil and Crop Twilight Tour, 4:44 pm, Don VanGorkum Farm, 4762 Hardy Creek Rd. (formerly Woodcock Rd), RR#7, Watford, ON. Helicopter vs. Ground Sprayer & Tillage Demonstrations. Contact Roger Buurma 519-871-2534 or Don VanGorkum 519-849-6824

September 8 or 9, 2011 - Lambton Soil and Crop Bus Tour. Pre-registration will be required. Contact Krista Gladstone at 519-674-1500, ext. 63597 for more details.

September 10, 2011 - Essex Soil and Crop Twilight Tour, 2:00 pm, Dave & Tammy Buchanan Farm, 5105 County Rd. 46, Comber, ON. Contact Michael Dick at 519-776-5209, ext. 369

September 13, 14, & 15, 2011 - Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Canada's Outdoor Park, Woodstock, ON. For details, go to <http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/> **IMPORTANT NEWS: Please contact your local county secretary to ensure your email address is current in order to receive your electronic brunch tickets this year! Your local county secretary's contact information is as follows:**

**Kent - Janet Campbell, Phone 519-352-2950, Email paulandjanet.campbell@sympatico.ca
Essex - Michael Dick, Phone 519-776-5209, ext. 369, Email mdick@erca.org
Lambton - Bonnie Marriott, Phone 519-882-3215, Email bojemarriott@hotmail.com**

ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope you enjoy our revamped newsletter! We decided it was time for a facelift...a spring makeover of sorts. Please feel free to send me your feedback on the new design (along with story ideas, pictures and any other information you think our members might be interested in). Remember, this is **your** newsletter, so we'd love to hear from **you** on how to improve things.

For this edition of the newsletter, we are trying something else a little different. For the 'President's Profile' messages, we have asked each of our regional Presidents five different questions about their personal farming situation. We hope this allows you to get to

know your local Presidents a bit better. The questions were as follows:

1. **Do you work off the farm?**
2. **What crops do you grow? Does this change much from year-to-year?**
3. **Do you have livestock?**
4. **Do any of your kids have an interest in farming?**
5. **Are you a 'waiter' (do you wait until the ground is fit to work) or a 'goer' (get in the field as soon as physically possible)?**

Here is how they responded to those questions.

Have a great summer! Krista Gladstone



Essex Soil & Crop Improvement Association

Hylander Farms Inc. is a family farm. Brian along with his parents, Walter and Muriel Hyland operate a cash crop and beef farm in Essex County. Brian and his wife Rina (who teaches) have three teenagers William, Virginia and Matthew.

- 1) Yes I work off the farm. I am the new Environmental Farm Plan coordinator for Essex county. I am replacing Ernie Konrad who has retired from this position. Most courses occur in late fall into winter with project inspections occurring from spring to winter. I am also a "Hyland Seeds" sales representative in Essex County.
- 2) At Hylander Farms, we grow corn, soybeans, winter wheat and alfalfa. Rarely do we stray from our 4 year rotation.
- 3) We also raise corn fed beef and veal. I sell directly to families who want properly aged beef cut and wrapped to their needs. I also attend "Buy Local" Farmers Markets. At our farm store, we offer individual cuts at retail prices or customers can buy wholesale BBQ packages (i.e. 1/4's etc.).

Please visit our web site at www.hylanderfarms.com. My Brand is "Father Wants Beef".

- 4) My wife Rina and I have 3 teenagers! William, the oldest is entering his 2nd year of engineering studies at Western, Virginia will be attending Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in the fall (sciences/business) and lastly Matthew has 3 more years of high school! The farm enterprises can grow to accommodate our children if that is their interest, but otherwise time will tell.
- 5) If we invest heavily in tiling, split the 1950 clay tile with plastic, the ground will be fit to plant when it is ready. Plant in April if the ground is fit, plant in May if we cannot in April. I will finish in June if that is my last choice!

**Brian Hyland, President ESCIA
and Environmental Farm Plan Co-ordinator
For Essex County**



REMINDER TO FARM SAFELY!!!

Each year in Canada an average of 115 people are killed and at least 1,500 are hospitalized for farm-related incidents according to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) program. In 2006 a total of 13,801 Canadian farms reported one or more medically treated or lost time injuries, reports Stats Canada. Here are some simple things you can do to avoid becoming a statistic:

- **WEAR YOUR CELL PHONE**
- **KEEP FIRST AID KITS & FIRE EXTINGUISHERS NEARBY**
- **MAKE A VISUAL CHECK AROUND EQUIPMENT BEFORE OPERATING**
- **KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE AT ALL TIMES**
- **REST - FATIGUE LEADS TO ACCIDENTS**
- **NEVER ALLOW PASSENGERS ON ANY PIECE OF FARM EQUIPMENT**

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Kent Soil & Crop Improvement Association

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1) Yes, I am employed with Maizex Seeds as a District Sales Manager.

2) I farm in Dover Township. I mainly grow corn but sometimes grow soybeans and wheat.

3) No, I don't have livestock.

4) No children as of yet.

5) I try to work the soil when conditions are fit. Most of the time, this is not a problem, however this year, it was difficult to get on the land.

Dave Emery, President KSCIA



Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association

- Continued from Page 2

1) I do not work off the farm on a regular basis. Most of my off-farm activities involve volunteering and also my duties as a director with OSMA.

2) I grow the 3 main crops, corn, soyas and wheat. I also grow quite a few acres of hay for my sheep flock and cow/calf herd. There is also some limited amount of pasture.

3) Yes, we do have livestock as previously mentioned.

4) My 4 children (two sons) are grown and living and working in other areas of our province. None of them are involved in agriculture at this time.

5) This is a timely question for this spring. I definitely am not the first guy to be out on his land in the spring. In fact, today as I write this, we are waiting patiently one more day for our clay to dry a little more before we go back on to it. Working land too early this year could be very costly if our summer turns out to be very dry. I had a late uncle who often told me to till the soil as though every year would be a dry one.

Fraser Hodgson, President LSCIA



- Photo Courtesy of D. Emery

KSCIA Tech &Gadget Night

KSCIA held their Tech & Gadget Night on April 21st at Dean Craven's Shop in Eberts. Dave Emery, KSCIA President commented "It was a great success! We had an excellent turnout." Devolder Farms sponsored the dinner along with Pat and his super-sized tray of onions.

Industry presenters included Jamie McGrail from McGrail Farm Equipment and Paul Van den Borre from HJV, who discussed where the industry is going with regard to GPS and Precision Ag Technologies.

Henry Denotter lead a good networking discussion on field installed monitors. Henry pointed out that one of the first things to check each spring, when the monitors won't turn on, is the power supply. Henry went through the various parts and demonstrated how the electrical cables are put together. He commented that weather pack connections are popular but they have a lot of little seals and pins which require a special crimping tool to bring them all together.

Ron Faubert pointed out the benefits of adding citric acid to water to lower pH which allows chemicals to work better. He also pointed out that citric acid works great for cleaning up sprayer tips and other small parts (just soak overnight; parts are like new)!

Overall, there was good farmer participation at Tech & Gadget Night and some interesting ideas were exchanged. Hopefully those in attendance had a new idea or two to take home!



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

An Important Message about Farm Bunkhouses

April 14, 2011 - In December of 2010, the Government of Ontario announced that eligible farm bunkhouses would be taxed at the farm property class rate beginning January 1, 2011.

Since this amendment was filed the day before the return of the assessment roll to the local municipalities, there was not enough time to identify farms that have eligible bunkhouses and reflect that change in classification on the assessment roll for the 2011 taxation year.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is currently working with farm-related organizations to notify farmers of the regulation change and ensure that all eligible bunkhouses are captured and identified in the farm property class.

This change in classification is due to an amendment that was made to *Ontario Regulation 282/98*. According to the amendment, a bunkhouse is determined eligible for classification in the farm property class based on the following criteria:

1. The housing is used on a temporary basis for on farm labourers.
2. The housing does not serve as a principle residence on the property.
3. The housing is not occupied on a year-round basis.
4. The housing must be on a property that is assessed as a farm under subsection 19(5) of the *Assessment Act*.

5. The farmer must be approved by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for the farm property class.

To review the Regulation, please visit the [ServiceOntario](#) e-Laws site.

If you have a bunkhouse that meets the above criteria or for more information, **please contact us at 1 866 296 -MPAC (6722) Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** One of our Customer Service Representatives will be pleased to assist you. Should your bunkhouse meet the above stated criteria and qualify for inclusion in the farm property class, MPAC will send you an Amended Notice for the 2011 tax year.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Bradley, Account Manager Business Relations or Kathy Blake, Account Manager Government Relations, as outlined below.

Bill Bradley
Account Manager, Business Relations
Toll Free: 1-877-867-2970, ext. 222
Cell: 905-717-5075
E-mail: Bill.Bradley@mpac.ca

Kathy Blake
Account Manager, Government Relations
Toll Free: 1-877-228-3447, ext. 706
Cell: 905-439-1838
E-mail: Kathy.Blake@mpac.ca

1960's Silo Falls to Two Men Using Sledge Hammers in 15 Minutes! Another Change to the Farm Landscape...



- Photos Courtesy of H. Denotter

Glyphosate-Resistant Ragweed in Ontario

- Joe Vink, François Tardif and Peter Sikkema

Giant ragweed is a big cousin of the more widespread common ragweed. It belongs to the sunflower and really deserves to be called a giant as it easily reaches 3.5 meters tall. Giant ragweed is native to North America, and is found in regions of southern Canada and the US Midwest. Giant ragweed likes moist soils and is commonly found in river valleys, along roadsides and in fencerows. However, over the past years giant ragweed has changed and moved from ditches and fencerows, its natural habitat, to cultivated fields where it is heavily competing with crops throughout southwestern Ontario, mostly in Essex, Kent and Lambton counties.

Giant ragweed is an extremely competitive annual weed. It is one of the first weeds to germinate and emerge in the spring. In 2010, giant ragweed began emerging in our field plots near Windsor during April, and by May 10, it had already reached 10 cm in height. Giant ragweed seedlings can continue to emerge until the middle of July increasing the chance of escaping early herbicide applications. Upon emergence, giant ragweed grows rapidly giving it a competitive advantage over later emerging crops and weeds.

Previous research has demonstrated that soybean yield is negatively correlated with increasing giant ragweed density with a threshold of only 0.3 plant/m². Giant ragweed at a density of only one plant/m² reduced soybean yield up to 77%. In field trials in Ontario, giant ragweed densities have ranged from 5 to 192 plants/m² and yield losses are expected to approach 100% in the most competitive environments. To prevent yield loss in soybean, a field must be kept free of giant ragweed for 8 to 10 weeks after emergence. In Ontario, uncontrolled giant ragweed was able to grow to a height of greater than 2.5 m leaving little light, water and nutrients available for adequate soybean growth.

Giant ragweed interference results in large yield losses in corn as well. In studies conducted in Ohio a 13% loss in corn yield was observed with a giant ragweed density of 0.1 plants/m², when both the crop and the giant ragweed emerged at the same time. Furthermore, at 1.4 plants/m², yield loss was as high as 60%. Previous research on the competitiveness of various weed species suggests that giant ragweed is the most competitive annual weed of corn.

In 1996, the first documented case of glyphosate resistance was found in rigid ryegrass in Australia. Today, according to the International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds, there are 21 different weed species resistant to glyphosate, many of which have been discovered in the USA. In 2004, the first case of glyphosate resistant giant ragweed was identified by weed scientists in Ohio. Soon after, glyphosate resistant giant ragweed was also found in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Tennessee.

In 2008, weed scientists at the University of Guelph were contacted by a grower near Windsor who was not satisfied with the control of giant ragweed in one of his soybean fields after the application of glyphosate. Seeds were collected and tested for resistance using a known resistant biotype from Ohio and a susceptible biotype collected near Windsor as comparators. Initial

results showed that although the resistant plants were affected by glyphosate (very rapid burn), the plants were able to recover and produce seed (Figure 1). Further studies were initiated and by the summer of 2009, greenhouse dose response experiments on the glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed biotype demonstrated a 24-fold resistance level. After further testing, this giant ragweed biotype was confirmed as the first glyphosate-resistant weed in Canada.



Figure 1. A susceptible giant ragweed (left) compared to a resistant biotype (right) one day after the application of glyphosate at 1800 g ae/ha. The rapid response observed from the resistant biotype is evident, and not typical of glyphosate activity.

In 2009 and 2010, giant ragweed seed was collected from 117 sites across Essex, Kent and Lambton counties to document the distribution of glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed in Ontario. Seedlings were grown in a growth room at the University of Guelph and sprayed with glyphosate at twice the recommended field rate. Regular observations were made comparing these seedlings with a known susceptible biotype. Results from the 2009 survey identified an additional 16 fields in southwestern Ontario with glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed. In 2009, all sites were located in Essex county. Preliminary results from the 2010 survey suggest the number of sites with glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed is increasing and may be more widespread than originally thought.

During the summer of 2010, field trials in soybean were implemented at three sites in Essex County with known glyphosate resistant giant ragweed. The objectives of this research were to determine the level of giant ragweed control with:

- higher rates of glyphosate
- glyphosate tank mixes applied preplant
- glyphosate tank mixes applied postemergence, and
- dicamba tolerant soybeans

Based on preliminary data, only two glyphosate tank mixes provided adequate control. They were glyphosate (900 g ae/ha) + 2, 4-D ester (500 g ai/ha) and glyphosate (900 g ae/ha) + Eragon (25 g ai/ha) (Figure 2).

- Continued on Next Page...

OSCIA Appoints New EFP Program Representative in Essex

Farmers in Essex County have a new face to connect to the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and the associated incentive programs. It is Brian Hyland from near Maidstone. He is well-known as a seed-sales representative, and for raising and marketing beef and veal from the family farm. Brian is responsible for the delivery of EFP Workshops, and will be handling all the local delivery aspects of the environmental cost-share programs handled by OSCIA, including applications and final project inspections. Brian is also the current President of the Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association (see page 3).

After more than twenty years in the roll, Ernie Konrad is handing over the reins and has chosen to pursue other interests. The Konrad's are settling into a lovely home near Kitchener, newly renovated and backing onto a wetland/wildlife conservation area. Ernie says it is quite a change from his 68 years on the farm in Essex but they will now be able to spend much more time with their children and grandchildren who are close by.

All of the environmental program files for producers in the county that had been carefully compiled by Ernie, have now been transferred to Brian for safe keeping. Brian is the new go-to guy in Essex to answer all environmental program questions. Thank-you for all of your hard work Ernie and a warm welcome to Brian!



Harold Rudy, Executive Director, OSCIA presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Ernie Konrad, outgoing Program Representative for Essex

- Photo Courtesy of H. Rudy

Calling all innovative farmers!

Are you a closet tinkerer? Have you come up with a simple solution to speed up a daily chore? Send us your **PRACTICAL FARM IDEA** (a picture and a short description of what it does) **before July 29th, 2011** and you could win a prize!

The St. Clair Executive will judge your submissions and the winning entry will be published in the September edition of the newsletter. Send your entries to Krista Gladstone at kgladsto@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca or fax 519-674-1512 before the deadline for a chance to win.



Example: HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU LEFT THE HOSE RUNNING IN THE SPRAYER TANK & MADE A NEW LAKE?!

The fix - install a fuel nozzle on the end of a garden hose and it will shutoff when the tank is full. Buy a garden hose adapter and the hose threads right on.

Glyphosate-Resistant Ragweed in Ontario (Continued from Page 6)

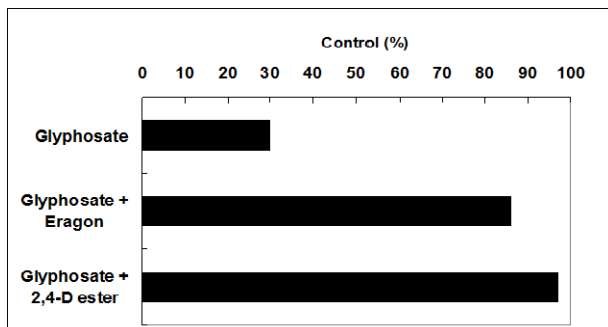


Figure 2. Effect of two herbicides added to glyphosate on the control of giant ragweed. Treatments were applied on May 10, 2010 prior to planting soybeans. Giant ragweed was up to 29 cm tall at the time of application. Soybeans were planted on May 27, 2010. Control was evaluated four weeks after the application of treatments. Data presented is the mean of three trials, each comprising four replications.

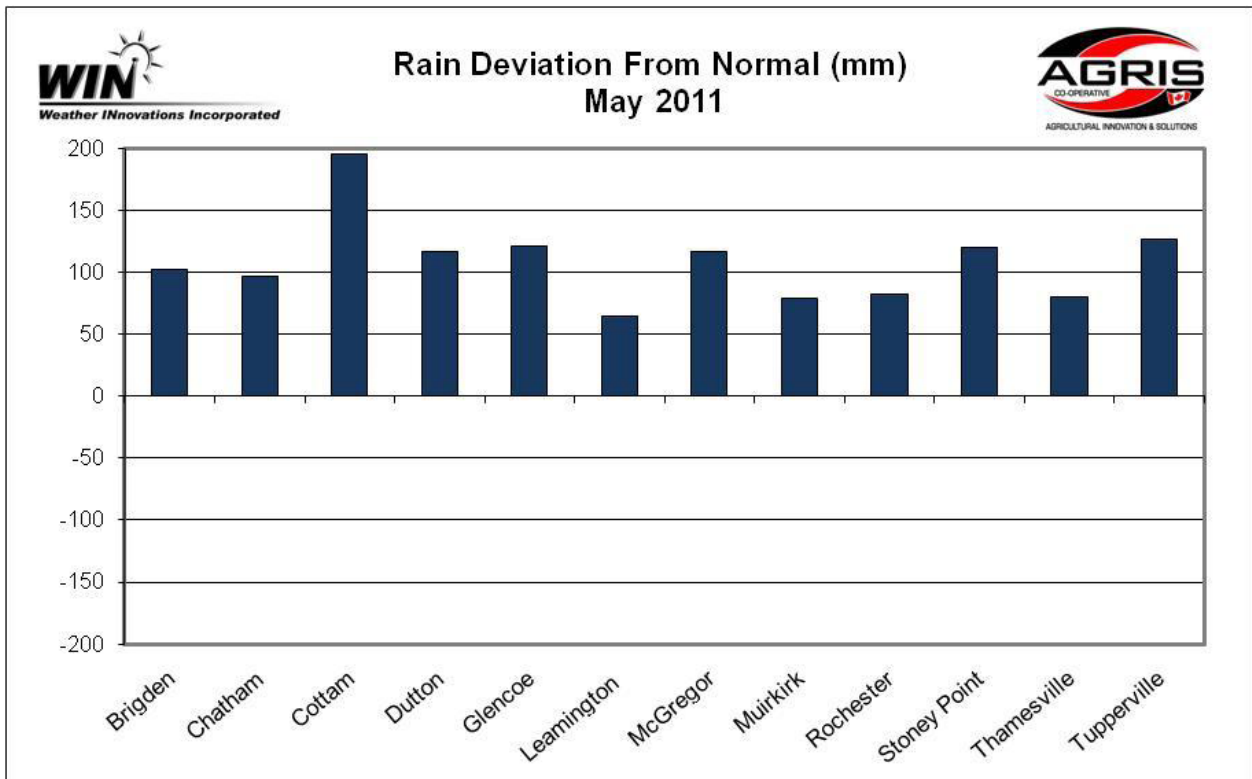
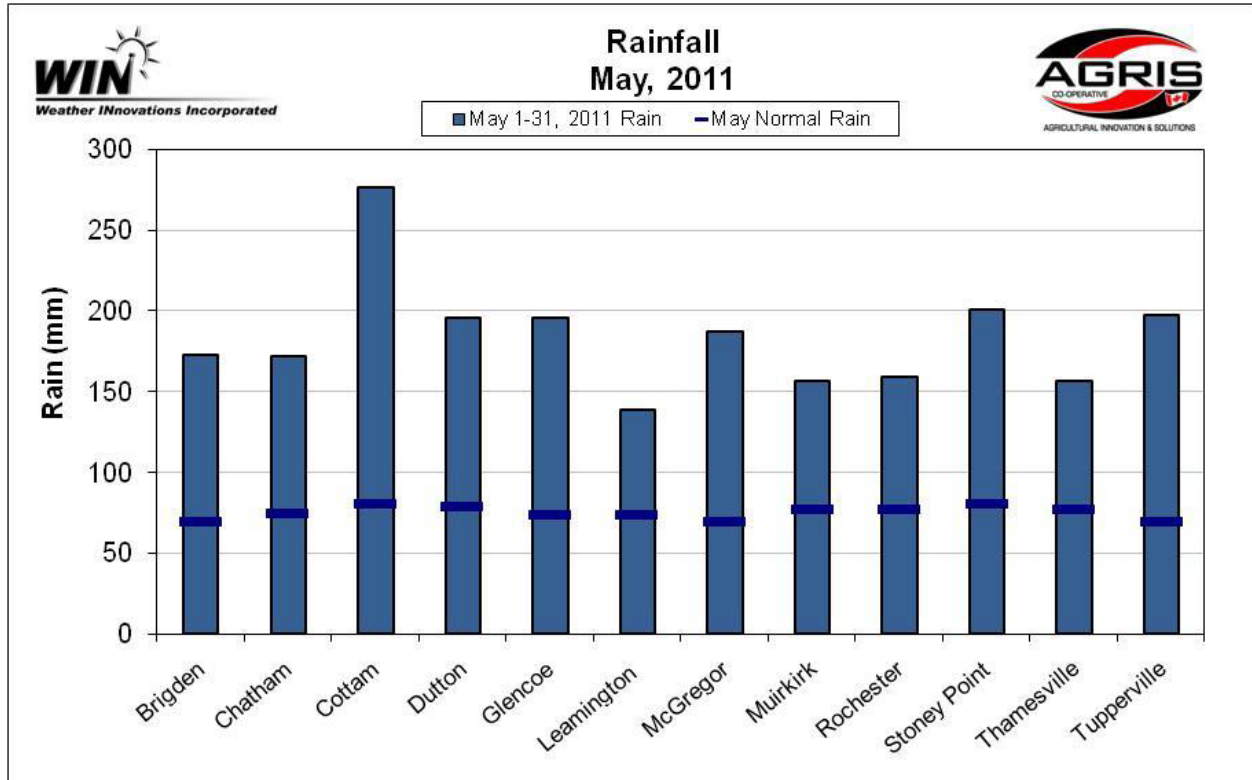
The biologically effective rate of glyphosate study included the application of glyphosate at various rates. Glyphosate was applied at

450, 900, 1800, 2700, 5400 and 10800 g ae/ha or 1/2, 1, 2, 3, 6 and 12 times the recommended rate. Interestingly, at the recommended field rate, giant ragweed control was only 30% (Figure 2). Additionally, some giant ragweed individual plants were able to survive glyphosate applied at 10800 g ae/ha or 12 times the recommended field rate. The use of dicamba tolerant soybeans provided excellent control of glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed. Dicamba applied preplant or postemergence provided up to 98 and 93% control respectively at the one confined field trial location where it was tested. Research is continuing and field trials have been implemented at five locations in 2011.

Additional studies have been implemented at the University of Guelph to determine the mechanism of glyphosate resistance in giant ragweed. Glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed has been confirmed in Ontario and is a serious issue in view of the difficulty in controlling this highly competitive weed. Farmers are encouraged to use best management practices to minimize selection for glyphosate-resistant weeds. Growers are advised to implement a diverse crop rotation with multiple herbicide modes of action over time. The authors would like to thank the farm cooperators for allowing us to conduct research on their farms and Monsanto for their continued support of this collaborative research effort.

AGRIS / WIN REPORT:

Throughout the month of May, there was an average of 16.5 days of rain. The McGregor and Windsor area had the highest with 19 days of rain, accumulating 186.6 mm. The lowest accumulation was 156.3 mm in 15 days. The highest accumulation was 276.4 mm in 18 days in the Cottam area. No matter where you were, it was a wet month!



(Data Charts Courtesy of Agris / Weather Innovations Network)



Our soybeans. Built for your farm.

Still available!

The data speaks for itself. Hyland's **HS 24RYS01** has been proven a winner in trials, and more importantly, on farms like yours.

In the 2010 Essex Soil and Crop Performance Trials HS 24RYS01 had a yield index of 108%. Being SCN resistant and having a maturity of 3150 makes this variety built for your farm.

Thank you!

Hyland salutes those who are passionate about agriculture and we would like to thank the St. Clair Region Soil and Crop Members for the hard work and dedication they put into every trial.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Segeren,
Hyland Seeds
District Sales Manager
519-401-4152

Hyland Seeds' Agricultural Walk of Fame

The **Hyland Seeds' Agricultural Walk of Fame** honours individuals who have made significant contributions to our agricultural communities.

Nominate a person you know who is *passionate about agriculture*. They could be included in this year's Agricultural Walk of Fame.

Visit www.hylandseeds.com for a nomination form, call Hyland at 1-800-265-7403 or email bmcfadden@hylandseeds.com.

