

“Best Management Manual” A New Resource for Ontario Seed Corn Producers

Purpose:

In recent years, the Ontario seed corn industry has undergone significant changes. Maintaining productivity and quality under variable growing conditions in the future is critical to the ongoing viability of the Ontario seed corn industry. Environmental concerns with nutrients, pest management and competition for land base with other rotational crops are part of the production challenges facing Ontario seed corn producers. Sustainable and dependable production not only increases our competitiveness against other production areas but is the key to the future health and growth of the seed corn industry in Ontario. In response to these challenges OMAFRA and the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario developed a Best Management Practices Manual for Ontario Seed Corn.



The manual is the first comprehensive manual dedicated specifically to Ontario seed corn production issues relating to diseases, insects, weeds and crop management and has been well received by producers and the industry. Manuals were distributed to seed companies, agribusiness and all seed corn producers through the SCGO annual meeting, seed company grower information meetings and through both OMAFRA (Ridgetown) and the SCGO office (Chatham). The manual and especially the individual colour “pest” sheets have been designed to aid in the identification of many of the common problems encountered by Ontario seed corn producers.

Next Steps:

As is the case with all resource materials, it is important to continue updating the information to keep it relevant and applicable to the every changing seed corn production issues. In order to be proactive and meet this challenge, the “Best Management Manual” will be transferred to the Ontario Seed Corn Growers (www.seedcorngrowers.on.ca). Including the manual on the OSCG website will allow for easy and convenient access to the information and will provide quick access to updates.

Acknowledgments:

This project was supported by the Canada-Ontario Research and Development Program, administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. Funding is being provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs under the Canada-Ontario Agricultural Safety Net Management Agreement. In addition, Syngenta Crop Protection Canada provided funding to assist with the production of the manual.

Project Contacts:

Albert Tenuta, OMAFRA, albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca