

Development of Best Management Practices for Ontario Seed Corn Production - CD and Website

Project Summary:

The original Seed Corn Best Management Practices Manual (SCBMPM) was aimed to assist seed corn producers, consultants, seed corn company personnel and others in the identification and management of many of the common problems associated with seed corn production in Ontario. With the development of the hardcopy Seed Corn Best Management Practices Manual the next phase consisted of developing a CD version of the manual and including an updated electronic version onto the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario Website (SCGO) at www.seedcorngrowers.com.

The SCGO website is an important learning vehicle for seed corn producers and has become an important North American seed corn resource. The internet provides convenient access to the information for all Ontario seed corn producers and others involved in the industry. The manual website and CD version is a major technology transfer vehicle to seed corn and other specialty corn growers and company representatives in Ontario. This can help reduce duplication or contradicting information.

With the addition of the updated electronic SCBMPM on the SCGO website future revisions and modifications can be accomplished easily and linked to other resources as needed such as the OMAFRA website. It was important to continue updating the information in this manual and this proposal allowed for the inclusion of new information in order to keep it relevant and applicable to the every changing seed production issues which face the industry. For instance, various components of this project included surveying and monitoring pest and other yield limiting factors associated with seed corn production in the province. The main purpose was to determine the distribution and severity's of many yield limiting factors such as seed-borne disease, seedling blights, Stewart's wilt, head smut, and ear or kernel rot on seed corn. The distribution and severity of other diseases and insects including eyespot, northern leaf blight, common rust, gray leaf spot, common smut, stalk rot, corn flea beetle, European corn borer and corn rootworm were also recorded.

We were able to document many seed corn leaf diseases such as northern leaf blight, anthracnose leaf blight and gray leaf spot continue to increase in the province and are a significant threat to a viable and profitable seed corn industry. There is very little monitoring elsewhere in North America and this information has been requested by many of the major seed corn companies as well as shared with the major corn and seed corn pathologists and researchers in North America. The results of these three surveys were summarized and included in the Updated Best Management Practices Manual for Ontario Seed Corn Production. In addition, this information provides a benchmark for future comparisons.



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Manual Added to the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario Website

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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Seed Corn Best Management Practices for Ontario CD Version



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