



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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## **THE STORY OF BRRG RESEARCH AND EXTENSION 2020**





## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Colin Wager**



Battle River Research Group is committed to improving agriculture through producer-driven research and providing extension events to farmers in our area. Our goal is to teach farmers new ideas and techniques they can use in their operation.

I find this report hard to write, as once I was elected president, it seemed the next thing that happened was COVID. So, very little travel was done. Two in-person meetings were held with social distancing in place. There were two Zoom-type meetings held, with mixed results. There were many phone calls throughout the summer and are still continuing. There has been group emails to the board and of course text messaging.

One thing that I can say about this year is that our manager Khalil Ahmed has been excellent in the board's almost absence. I can say that we as a board are very grateful to have a person with his knowledge and experience. He is well on his way to surrounding himself with a great team. Part of that team is his wife Nasima Junejo. Together they have found many jobs to bring in work and money to our association. We need to grow our business to ensure that BRRG will be around for many years for our members.

Well done Khalil!!

I would like to say thank you to our BRRG members, our five counties for their support, our corporate supporters and the board.

I am hoping for a bit more of a normal year next year, and many more after that.

Colin Wager

President, BRRG Board of Directors



## BRRG IS GROWING

First of all, I am very thankful to the BRRG board for giving me an opportunity to run this organization.

Although 2020 was a challenging year, I am proud of my team's ability to adopt COVID-19 changes and still be able to seed 45 research trials (over 2,000 research plots) which is almost double compared to the 24 research trials in 2019.

Battle River Research Group has started eight collaborative projects with agricultural colleges (Lethbridge College and Lakeland College), crop commissions (Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Barley and Alberta Pulse Growers), industry and other sister associations in the province.

During 2020, we conducted soil health sampling at 22 locations, and we did pest monitoring, a nematode survey and a feed analysis program for producers.

Most of our extension events were virtual – at the beginning of the pandemic in early March, we started with webinars, followed by a virtual field day in July and crop walks in August. The traffic on the BRRG website is skyrocketing – videos and presentations were uploaded so producers can watch anytime.

In 2021, we are planning on getting into on-farm research trials, such as corn silage and soil amendments.

I am very grateful to have some lovely people around me who are always guiding and helping me, including Colin Wager for mentorship, Melvin Thompson for financials, Dale Pederson for equipment repairs and Howard Vincett for giving us prime land for research plots.

It is very good that BRRG is growing, and we will continue to put all our efforts into serving producers in east-central Alberta.

I am confident, we are going to make BRRG GREAT AGAIN!

Regards,

Khalil Ahmed PhD., P. Ag.

Manager

Battle River Research Group





# **Battle River Research 2020 — 2024**

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

1. To find stable funding resources to produce unbiased farm led research and extension program
2. To be a recognized as an effective farmer's association of east central Alberta
3. To deliver relevant and applicable research to regional farmers to enhance Farmer-Led Research through a partnership with regional producers to evaluate technology, practices, and products.
4. Transfer updated knowledge and technology information to Alberta's farmers

### **Mission:**

Advancing agriculture  
as an independent,  
producer-driven  
resource

### **Vision:**

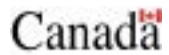
Beyond sustainability  
through innovation in  
agriculture

# STRATEGIC GOAL 1 | 2020 PROGRESS

## To Build a foundation of Reliable Stable Resources

### Project Funding

BRRG got funding for 11 projects from CAP programs. We also collaborate on different projects and got funding from Alberta Barley, wheat, and Pulse growers commissions. BRRG generated a revenue of \$40000 in 2020



### Partnership

In 2020, we initiated the concept of a research partnership with local producers. We got funding for two Farm Scale Research projects. BRRG decided to continue this partnership in the future. BRRG is providing services for industrial research. In 2020 we did 14 projects for the industrial research.

### Enhance the Research Capacity of Battle River Research Group

- Improved pieces of equipment and research tools.
- Hired and outsourced qualified professionals and specialists and organized webinars and on-call services with them ( see our extension report).
- BRRG Improved tech and gadgets to do an online extension during pandemic





**To hire a qualified , experienced and efficient staff is also part of capacity improvement. BRRG always support local community by providing employment to local graduate students in summer.**



#### **Full Time Staff 2020**

Khalil Ahmed, PhD., P. Ag. (Manager / Research Coordinator)

Vineet Singh M. Sc. Entomology (Field Coordinator)

#### **Contract Staff / Consultant**

Donna Stoddart (Accountant)

Nasima Junejo Ph D. P. Ag. (Research Consultant)

Caitlyn (Bachelor student U of A) (Summer Research Technician)

Koryn (Bachelor student U of A) (Summer Research Technician)

Travis Robinson ( Forestburg High School Graduate) (Fall assistant)

## STRATEGIC GOAL 2 | 2020 PROGRESS

To be recognized as an effective farmer's association of east central Alberta

Battle River Research group supervised by twelve board members Our members are part of councils and municipalities and have knowledge of current farmers issues and research needs.

### Board of Directors

#### Executive 2020

##### President

Colin Wager

##### Vice President/Treasure

Steven Vincett

##### Secretary

Ingrid Brady

#### Board Member 2020

Dale Pederson

Melvin Thompson

Henry Michelson

Stan Schulmeister

Alisa Donnelly

Ed Lefsrud

Rob Somerville

Brent Christensen

Dave Grover





# STRATEGIC GOAL 3| 2020 PROGRESS

**Delivered relevant and applicable research to East Central Alberta farmers**

## **BRRG 2020 Crop Research Overview**

This year, BRRG seeded four small plot research sites (2000 research plots), including cereal canola site, pulse site, long-term project sites and silage sites. We established three experimental fields at Galahad in Flagstaff County, and one at Viking in Beaver County. The sites experienced challenging weather — heavy rain and hail — but we managed to survive and harvested all plots on time.



## **Research projects undertaken by Battle River Research Group in 2020**

- ◆ Yield and Quality of Annual Crop Mixtures and Alternatives Annual crops for forage production in Alberta.
- ◆ Evaluation of Perennial Forage Mixes for Hay /pasture
- ◆ Evaluation of the interaction between seed size and seeding depth on canola establishment and yield.
- ◆ Managing Malt Genetics for Feed End-use
- ◆ Soil Health Benchmarking
- ◆ Improvement and adaption of Ranchers technology
- ◆ Comparison of Traditional Crop Inputs and Biostimulants Application on Wheat, Canola, and Peas in Alberta
- ◆ Ultra Early seeding of Spring Wheat Varieties
- ◆ Regional Winter Wheat Trial
- ◆ Regional Silage Trial (Oat, Barley, Triticale).

## STRATEGIC GOAL 3| 2020 PROGRESS (cont.)

**Delivered relevant and applicable research to East Central Alberta farmers**

- ♦ Regional Cereal Varieties Testing Program (Wheat, Oat, Triticale and Barley).
- ♦ Regional Pulse Varieties Testing Program (Yellow Peas, Green Peas, Soyabean, Lentils, Fababean)
- ♦ Pest Monitoring, diamond Moth, wheat Midge, Bertha
- ♦ Improving and adapting forage and crop production knowledge, technology, and production practices for Ranchers & Farmers
- ♦ Assessment of different Nitrogen sources and Method of application on Canola and Wheat yield.
- ♦ Effectiveness of Power Coat microbial inoculum in enhancing fertilizer use efficiency by wheat and canola.
- ♦ Evaluation of Foliar micronutrient products on yield of Barley, Canola, Peas and Wheat
- ♦ Evaluation of different Phos rates on Peas yield and growth.
- ♦ Assessment of different types of inoculant on root nodulation and yield of Field Peas.

Please visit our website for each project details.



BRRG did 14 industry trials for

Crop management, Ag-Xplore, Power Rich and KOCH



# REGIONAL VARIETY TRIALS — 2020

The Regional Variety Trials (RVT) Testing Program is coordinated by the Alberta Regional Variety Advisory Committee (ARVAC) and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF). Variety performance data is collected throughout Alberta and northern British Columbia and compiled by an RTV Coordinator for publication in the Alberta Seed Guide ([www.seed.ab.ca](http://www.seed.ab.ca)). The RVT program is responsible for generating unbiased post-registration information for varieties.

Variety selection is essential for production management and economic decisions. Every year, RVTs provide regional performance information suitable for each environment on emerging crop varieties as compared to standard and well-established varieties. All breeding lines can perform to their genetic potential.

BRRG collects data on the agronomic performance of new varieties under local agro-climatic conditions of central-east Alberta.

Trial objectives:

1. To provide producers with agronomic data relevant to the local soil and agro-climatic conditions
2. To familiarize local producers with newly registered varieties available to them
3. To contribute local agronomic data to the provincial database

Battle River Research Group is one of the collaborative associations for RVT trials. The following are the accumulated results from BRRG research sites. Yields are expressed as a percentage of the check; this makes the data comparable within varieties tested in

regional variety trials hosted by the government of Alberta. The overall results can be found in the Alberta Seed Guide.

BRRG small plot trials are conducted on the most consistent and highest performing land, which allows the differences in varieties to be highlighted instead of other limiting factors such as water, nutrients or other potential deficiencies.

Sites were selected in early spring and soil tested to determine soil fertility by the lab for the region's optimal yield goals. The amount of seed required was calculated using TKW, percent germination and estimated seed mortality. Pre-treated seed varieties were provided by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

The pulse, cereal, and flax trials, except soybean, were seeded in the first, second and third week of May 2020, respectively. The grains were planted on pea stubble, and all pulses were seeded on wheat stubble at research sites at Galahad. Recommended herbicides were applied as per Alberta Crop Protection, Blue Book 2020.

**Table 1. List of regional variety trials seeded at BRRG in 2020**

Crop	#of cul-tivars	# of repli-cations
Durum	10	3
Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) & CWHWS	32	3
Canada Western Special Purpose (CWSP) & CWSWS	11	3
Canada Prairie Spring Red (CPSR) & CNHR	9	3
Triticale	4	3
Oats	7	3
Barley – 2 Row	21	3
Winter Wheat	10	3
Flax	5	4
Green Peas	6	4
Yellow Peas	13	4
Fababean	7	4
Lentil	6	4
Soybean	11	4

**Results:**

Results from the BRRG 2020 RVT trials are summarized in Tables 3 to 10. The following yields were estimated and concluded only for the Battle River research site of Flagstaff County. The varieties' performance may be different in other regions. For provincial results, please refer to Alberta Seed Guide 2020.

**Table 2. Yield range according to Alberta seed guide program**

Crop				Yield Category (bu/ac)		
Check Variety				Low	Medium	High
1	Wheat	CWSP	Carberry	>55	55-80	80
2		CWRS	Carberry	>55	55-80	80
3		Durum	Strong field	>45	45-70	70
4	Oats		CDC Dancer	>70	70-100	100-130
5	Barley		AC Metcalfe	>75	75-100	100-125
6	Flax		CDC Bethune	>20	20-30	30-37
7	Triticale		Brevis	>70	70-100	100-130

Ref: Alberta Seed Guide, 2020



# RVT CEREALS

## BARLEY-2020

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
AC METCALFE	36	3839.97	100%
AAC SYNERGY	40	5105.01	110%
AB ADVANTAGE	42	5321.91	118%
AB BREWNET	39	4630.57	109%
AB TOFIELD	37	5145.96	104%
AB WRANGLER	34	4664.44	96%
CDC AUSTENSON	36	4754.17	101%
CDC CHURCHILL	33	4927.92	91%
CDC COPELAND	40	4887.14	111%
CDC COPPER	31	5913.02	87%
ESMA	26	5378.11	73%
FB209	40	5170.65	112%
KWS CORALIE	26	5468.47	72%
KWS KELLIE	26	5285.08	71%
SIRISH	29	5675.93	80%
TORBELLINO	28	5431.88	78%
TR16742	32	4864.58	88%
TR18647	36	4803.08	101%
TR18747	38	5633.89	106%
TR18748	39	5276.69	107%
TR18749	37	5729.68	102%

## OATS-2020

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
CDC DANCER	96	4078.76	100%
AAC DOUGLAS	109	4877.64	113%
AC MORGAN	122	5253.53	127%
CDC ENDURE	104	4597.03	109%
CDC SKYE	134	5897.30	139%
CFA1502	121	5330.67	126%
CS CAMDEN	110	4874.49	115%

## TRITICALE-2020

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
BREVIS	92	5708.63	100%
T256	71	4424.19	77%
T267	90	5139.51	97%
TYNDAL	60	3385.08	65%

## FLAX-2020

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
CDC BETHUNE	40	2492.77	100%
CDC GLAS	42	2645.68	105%
AAC BRIGHT	39	2445.95	97%
CDC DORADO	40	2544.94	101%
FP2573	41	2590.83	103%





**DURUM-2020**

Varieties Name	Yield bu/ac	Yield kg/ha	% of check
STRONGFIELD	51	3524.07	100%
AAC GOLDNET	42	3067.69	83%
AAC GRAINLAND	41	2954.60	81%
AAC STRONGHOLD	35	2418.88	68%
BRIGADE	41	2965.21	81%
CDC COVERT	58	4094.27	113%
CDC DEFY	32	2337.00	63%
DT591	43	3096.02	84%
DT897	51	3657.09	101%
TRANSCEND	33	2419.97	65%

**CWSP-2020**

Varieties Name	Yield bu/ac	Yield kg/ha	% of check
CARBERRY	37	2709	100%
AAC BRANDON	49	3688	132%
AAC CASTLE	58	4296	156%
AAC PENHOLD	38	2858	104%
AC ANDREW	58	4269	157%
CDC REIGN	55	4079	150%
CS ACCELERATE	54	4163	146%
HY2068	46	3344	125%
LNR15-1741	50	3748	134%
PASTEUR	58	4361	158%
WPB WHISTLER	82	4990	221%



**CWRS-2020**

Varieties Name	Yield bu/ac	Yield kg/ha	% of check
CARBERRY	36	2732.8	100%
AAC BRANDON	44	3300.2	122%
AAC BROADACRES	51	3833.4	143%
AAC ELIE	51	3913.5	140%
AAC MAGNET	42	3192.4	117%
AAC REDSTAR	35	2673.6	98%
AAC RUSSELL	47	3587.5	131%
AAC STARBUCK	52	3975.5	143%
AAC WARMAN VB	47	3673.1	132%
AAC WHEATLAND VB	51	3918.2	143%
BW1069	49	3723.3	137%
BW1093	39	2998.5	110%
BW5031	56	4137.9	157%
BW5044	39	2999.4	109%
BW5045	43	3248.8	119%
CDC EVOLVE	65	3811.1	180%
CDC ORTONA	38	2877.6	107%
CS JAKE	36	2756.3	99%
CS TRACKER	31	2345.9	86%
CS11200214-17	40	3075.4	112%
DAYBREAK	41	3131.9	113%
ELLERSLIE	44	3076.1	122%
LNR15-1405	34	2504.6	95%
PT598	43	3237.3	118%
PT599	45	3449.1	126%
PT652	52	4113.7	145%
REDNET	41	3195.4	114%
SHEBA	33	2510.3	93%
STETTLER	31	2348.2	87%
SY GABRO	38	2889.6	106%
SY STEEL	38	2812.9	106%
SY TORACH	45	3335.1	125%





## RVT PULSES

### FABA-2020

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
NPZ 16.7610, 01	55	3723.29	100%
DL Tesoro, 01	63	4213.57	114%
NPZ 16.7601, 01	59	3965.43	107%
Snowbird, 01	58	3886.14	105%
CDC219-16, 01	51	3421.14	92%
Malik, 01	39	2641.86	71%
Fabella, 01	59	3987.14	108%

**LENTILS-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
CDC Lima CL, 01	23	1553.6	100%
CDC Nimble, 01	31	2077.9	134%
CDC Maxim CL SR, 01	22	1515.0	98%
CDC Simmie, 01	28	1895.4	122%
CDC Impulse CL, 01	34	2280.4	147%
CDC Proclaim, 01	33	2236.9	144%

**SOYBEAN-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
Renuka R2X, 01	17	1149.29	100%
PV 20s0006RR2X , 01	13	864.29	75%
Fresno RX2, 01	16	1051.86	92%
NSC Redvers RR2X, 01	13	875.71	76%
Torro R2, 01	25	1716.14	150%
Devo R2X, 01	13	886.86	77%
McLeod, 01	12	823.29	72%
NSC Watson RR2Y, 01	13	860.43	75%
NSC Wynyard RR2X, 01	17	1176.86	103%
Amirani R2, 01	14	927.86	81%
Nocomo R2, 01	16	1073.57	94%



**YELLOW PEAS-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
AAC Barrhead	54	3840	100%
AAC Carver	61	4257.14	112%
LN4228	56	4082.86	103%
CDC Athabasca	44	3197.14	81%
CDC Spectrum	61	4304.29	113%
AAC Delhi	60	4250	112%
CDC Inca	50	3711.43	92%
CDC Amarillo	64	4614.29	119%
CDC Ardill	62	4485.71	114%
CDC Lewochko	67	4825.71	124%
AAC Profit	70	5032.86	129%
AAC Lacombe	56	4061.43	104%
CDC Canary	79	5571.43	147%

**GREEN PEAS-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Yield	% of check
Name	bu/ac	kg/ha	
Garde	70	4821.43	100%
CDC Forest	76	4950	108%
Bluman	78	5385.71	111%
AAC Comfort	73	4764.29	105%
CDC Limerick	69	4714.29	99%
CDC Spruce	80	4940	114%

# YIELD AND QUALITY OF ANNUAL CROP MIXTURES AND ALTERNATIVES ANNUAL CROPS FOR FORAGE PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA



Silages are a vital feed component for cattle producers in Alberta and all around the globe. As an essential feed source, the farmer needs to understand which silage is good to grow according to their region's ecosystem. The annual silage trial is established to determine the adaptability of new silage crop and alternative silage crops in central Alberta.

The purpose of this project is to provide current knowledge about alternative silage production in Alberta. 2020 was the first year of the project establishment. The trials were seeded at Galahad and Viking research sites of BRRG. The trials include variety testing of silage oat, barley, triticale, winter/ spring cereal mix, cereal/pulse mix and alternatives (hybrid rye, forage radish, chicory, brassica, forage turnip, forage kale, millet, sorghum Sudan grass, phacelia, plantain).

The experimental studies were conducted in RCBD (randomized complete block design), assigned with four replications. Glyphosate was used as pre-seed burn-off on research plots. All three trials were seeded on pea stubble. The cereal pulse mix and winter-spring/cereal mix were seeded on May 25, 2020, and the alternative silage trial was seeded last on June 22, 2020. Standard fertilizer rate was applied, i.e., N:P:K:S=54:10:15:10 according to the research

site's soil test report.

Several data were collected on each trial, including total precipitation and average daily temperature recorded through the onsite weather monitoring system. Visual assessment was also done on plant lodging. The silage was harvested according to its growth stages in August. A forage harvester was used to harvest cereal-pea mixtures and wheat-spring cereals. Each sample was used to determine percent moisture and quality; dry and wet weight was also recorded.

Yield and feed nutritional values are expressed in Tables 1, 2 and 3. Feed samples of each trial were sent to the lab for quality analyses, including CP (crude protein), TDN (total digestible nutrients), Ca (calcium), P (phosphorus), K (potassium) and Mg (magnesium). The actual yield is expressed in kg/ha, and feed nutritional values are calculated in percent (%). In alternative forage, rye and millet showed highest dry matter yield as compared to other crops. The nutrient analyses were not significantly different as shown in Table 1. This year, no significant differences were found in dry matter yield of spring cereal mixture and cereal-pulse mixture; however an improvement in crude protein % were estimated in cereal-pulse mixture trials as shown in Figure 1. The economical analysis will be done at the end of the project.

Table 1. Range for yield category, provided in kg per hectare (source: Alberta Seed Guide). Silage crops are reported as average yields in Low, Medium and High in Alberta. This allows for comparison with the check when growing conditions and target yields are anticipated to be of low, medium or high productivity.

Crop	Low (kg/ha)	Medium (kg/ha)	High (kg/ha)
Oats	< 19770	19770 - 27180	>27180
Triticale	<24710	24710 - 30888	>30888
Barley	<20175	20175 - 26900	>26900
Pulse mixture	<19770	19770 – 24710	>24710

Table 2. Average range for feed nutritional value in different type of silages; average quantity is described in percent (Alberta Seed Guide association).

Nutrient and Mineral	Normal Range %
Crude protein (CP)	10-19
Total digestible nutrients (TDN)	54-64
Calcium (Ca)	0.6-1.5
Phosphorus (P)	0.17-0.33
Magnesium (Mg)	0.1-0.4
Potassium (K)	0.5-4.7





**Table 3. Alternative Forages-2020**

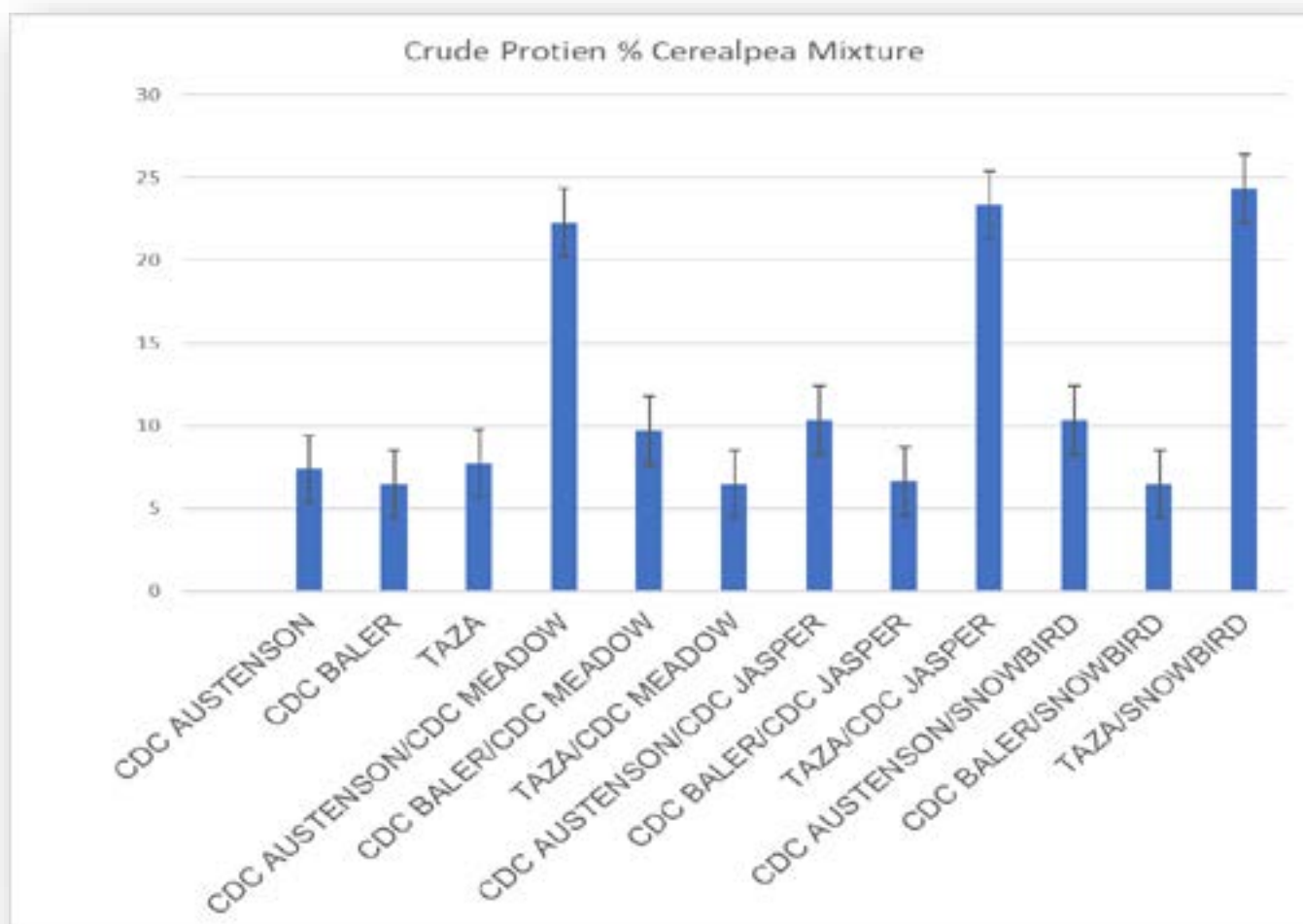
Varieties	Yield	Feed Nutritional %					
		CP	TDN	Ca	P	K	Mg
	kg/ha	%	%	%	%	%	%
CHICORY	8897.14	14.88	64.55	0.94	0.26	3.31	0.22
FORAGE BBRASSICA	7653.57	12.00	59.52	1.26	0.26	2.76	0.24
FORAGE KALE	8032.14	13.79	67.73	2.50	0.21	3.58	0.41
FORAGE RADISH	7840.43	14.26	69.07	2.14	0.26	3.11	0.47
FORAGE TURNIP	6300.43	12.59	62.39	1.42	0.26	2.54	0.29
HYBRID RYE	9155.71	17.26	64.74	1.39	0.28	5.16	0.35
MILLET	9088.29	14.08	62.31	0.64	0.25	3.07	0.20
PHACELIA	7379.71	13.47	62.63	2.58	0.24	3.06	0.38
PLANTAIN	8961.43	14.93	64.38	1.60	0.24	2.94	0.31

**Table 4. Cereal-Pulse mixture-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Feed Nutritional %					
		CP	TDN	Ca	P	K	Mg
	kg/ha	%	%	%	%	%	%
CDC AUSTENSON	15011.43	7.39	59.52	0.15	0.24	1.31	0.10
CDC BALER	7595.43	6.48	55.7	0.23	0.19	2.0	0.08
TAZA	11706.14	7.75	60.9	0.24	0.19	1.25	0.11
CDC AUSTENSON/CDC MEADOW	9056.14	22.26	52.72	0.31	0.20	2.23	0.11
CDC BALER/CDC MEADOW	5120.71	9.72	58.36	0.32	0.21	1.68	0.14
TAZA/CDC MEADOW	9196.14	6.5	57.09	0.2	0.16	1.32	0.10
CDC AUSTENSON/CDC JASPER	5778.29	10.37	55.45	0.27	0.26	1.76	0.11
CDC BALER/CDC JASPER	7182.57	6.66	55.2	0.28	0.18	2.42	0.13
TAZA/CDC JASPER	9398.57	23.36	55.26	0.26	0.13	1.46	0.10
CDC AUSTENSON/SNOWBIRD	9351.43	10.35	56.36	0.33	0.26	1.74	0.11
CDC BALER/SNOWBIRD	3988.50	6.48	55.7	0.23	0.19	2.0	0.08
TAZA/SNOWBIRD	5811.80	24.35	56.77	0.22	0.24	1.69	0.10

**Table 5. Winter spring/cereal mixture-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Feed Nutritional %					
		CP	TDN	Ca	P	K	Mg
	kg/ha	%	%	%	%	%	%
PRIMA/CDC AUSTENSON	24075.43	9.46	61.8	0.21	0.22	1.56	0.14
PRIMA/CDC BALER	16909.29	7.1	57.53	0.22	0.2	2.19	0.12
PRIMA/TAZA	19247.14	7.77	58.63	0.19	0.21	1.49	0.1
AAC WILDFIRE/CDC AUSTENSON	22394.71	6.66	56.02	0.26	0.15	1.41	0.11
AAC WILDFIRE/CDC BALER	17545.71	7.04	57.95	0.19	0.23	1.96	0.11
AAC WILDFIRE/TAZA	21250.71	8.28	58.62	0.18	0.22	1.46	0.08
BOBCAT/CDC AUSTENSON	22315.43	8.31	60.43	0.29	0.2	1.55	0.17
BOBCAT/CDC BALER	18393.57	6.79	58.64	0.18	0.22	1.86	0.13
BOBCAT/TAZA	21525.71	10.42	58.1	0.21	0.28	2.07	0.12
CDC AUSTENSON	20234	6.87	57.97	0.2	0.2	1.91	0.12
CDC BALER	22501	6.38	55.92	0.27	0.14	1.44	0.12
TAZA	15751.3	8.44	59.34	0.17	0.5	1.35	0.1



**Table 6. Regional Silage Oats-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Feed Nutritional %					
		CP	TDN	Ca	P	K	Mg
	kg/ha	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>CDC BALER</b>	14290.79	9.86	53.62	0.32	0.31	3.47	0.16
<b>AC MORGAN</b>	14570.47	6.26	50.79	0.26	0.24	2.9	0.12
<b>AC JUNIPER</b>	15296.07	6.59	56.68	0.27	0.35	2.38	0.11
<b>CDC ARBORG</b>	15150.76	4.96	46.98	0.32	0.24	3.14	0.12
<b>CDC HAYMAKER</b>	14132.04	6.58	53.41	0.3	0.3	3.22	0.12
<b>CDC NASSER</b>	15619.26	6.55	54.12	0.27	0.27	3.03	0.13
<b>CDC SEABISCUIT</b>	13788.54	8.47	55.39	0.36	0.31	2.77	0.15
<b>CS CAMDEN</b>	14622.33	5.53	56.47	0.25	0.31	1.98	0.1
<b>MURPHY</b>	14572.26	8.78	51.79	0.38	0.34	3.38	0.12
<b>ORE 3542 M</b>	9466.03	5.92	51.66	0.3	0.28	3.68	0.12

**Table 7. Regional Silage Triticale-2020**

Varieties	Yield	Feed Nutritional %					
		CP	TDN	Ca	P	K	Mg
	kg/ha	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>TAZA</b>	19431.14	6.34	56.16	0.2	0.21	1.63	0.09
<b>AAC AWESOME</b>	20338.57	8.94	57.97	0.22	0.23	1.43	0.09
<b>AAC DELIGHT</b>	20180.43	6.64	58.15	0.19	0.22	1.37	0.1
<b>AAC PARAMOUNT</b>	20342.86	7.01	59.8	0.15	0.28	1.65	0.1
<b>AC ANDREW</b>	18575.71	6.03	56.98	0.17	0.2	1.64	0.06
<b>AC SADASH</b>	18107.14	8.5	54.37	0.21	0.26	1.76	0.1
<b>KWS ALDERON</b>	19129	5.74	61.57	0.15	0.22	1.29	0.05
<b>BUNKER</b>	20398.57	6.49	59.55	0.16	0.18	1.22	0.1
<b>SUNRAY</b>	17749.71	8.46	59.35	0.18	0.24	1.73	0.09
<b>T256</b>	20807.86	10.12	56.25	0.18	0.25	2.18	0.12



# MANAGING MALT GENETICS FOR FEED END-USE

The Battle River Research Group is collaborating in a research study with Lakeland College to increase feed barley profitability on Alberta farms. The “Managing Malt Genetics for Feed End-use” project, funded by the Alberta Barley Commission, tested whether growing malt barley varieties for feed end-use could improve yields and profitability. The project was established at Vermilion (Lakeland College) and Forestburg (Battle River Research Group) in 2019.

The research trial investigated three malt varieties (CDC Copeland, AAC Synergy and CDC Bow) and three feed varieties (CDC Austenson, Brahma and Oreana) under low nitrogen (80 lb/ac total N - malt management) and high nitrogen (125 lb/ac total N - feed management). CDC Copeland (reg. in 1999) was included as the large acre malt variety check, while CDC Austenson (reg. in 2009) was the large acre feed variety check.

In 2019, at Forestburg, feeds and malts yielded in similar quantities and the feed variety Oreana had highest yield than all other varieties. No significant differences were observed in the yields of the three malt varieties at Forestburg as compared to feed varieties yields. In 2020, overall barley yield was less than 2019; however, malt varieties production is significantly lower than feed varieties. The Oreana feed barley variety yielded higher than all other varieties at Forestburg in both years of the study.

In both years, higher rates of N improved yield for each variety, but malt varieties were more responsive towards higher N rates as compared to feed as shown in Figure 2. CDC Bow yielded 17% more at higher N rates (140kg/ha). On the other hand, CDC Copeland responded negatively in 2019, and in 2020 we did not record a significant increase in yield (1.3 %).



Figure 1. Malt and feed varieties yield (bu/ac) comparison for year 0f 2019 and 2020

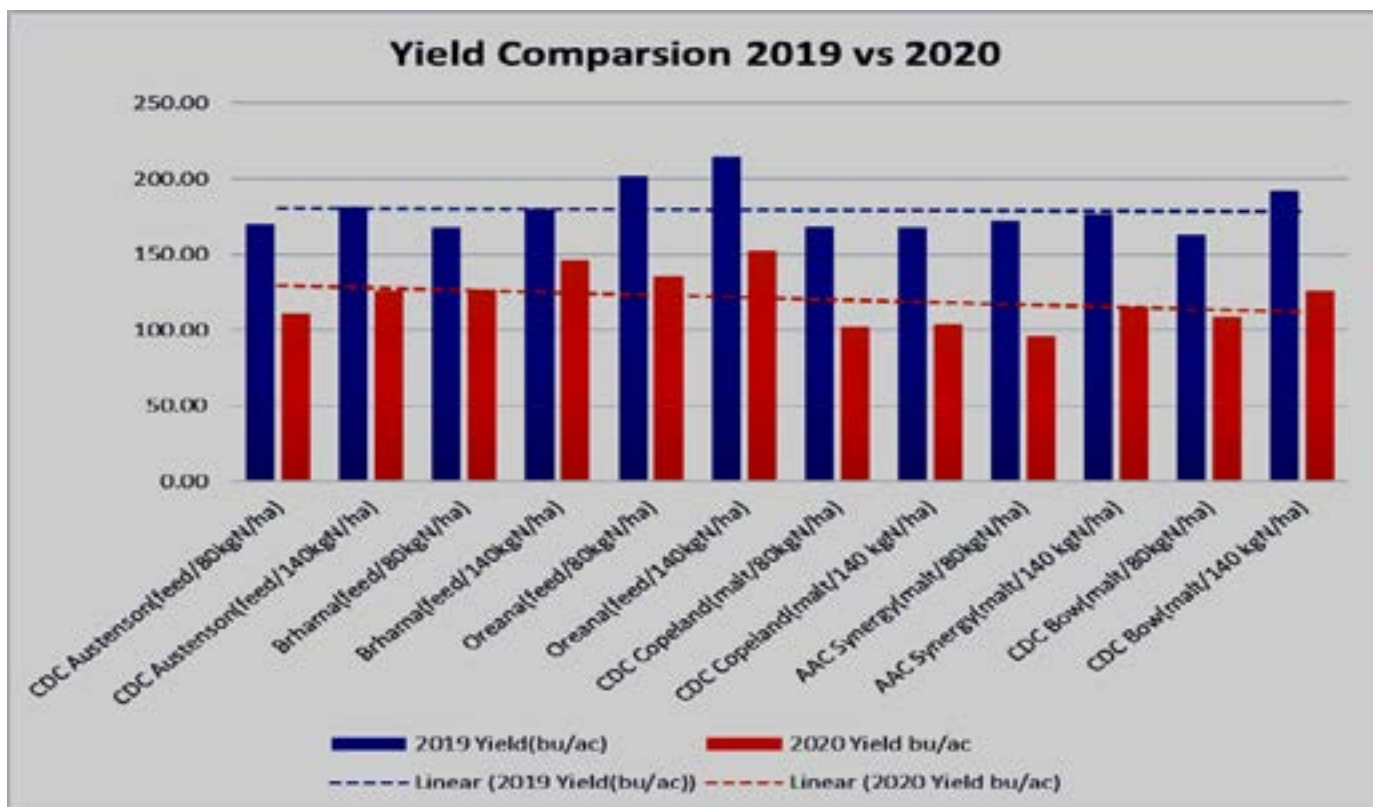
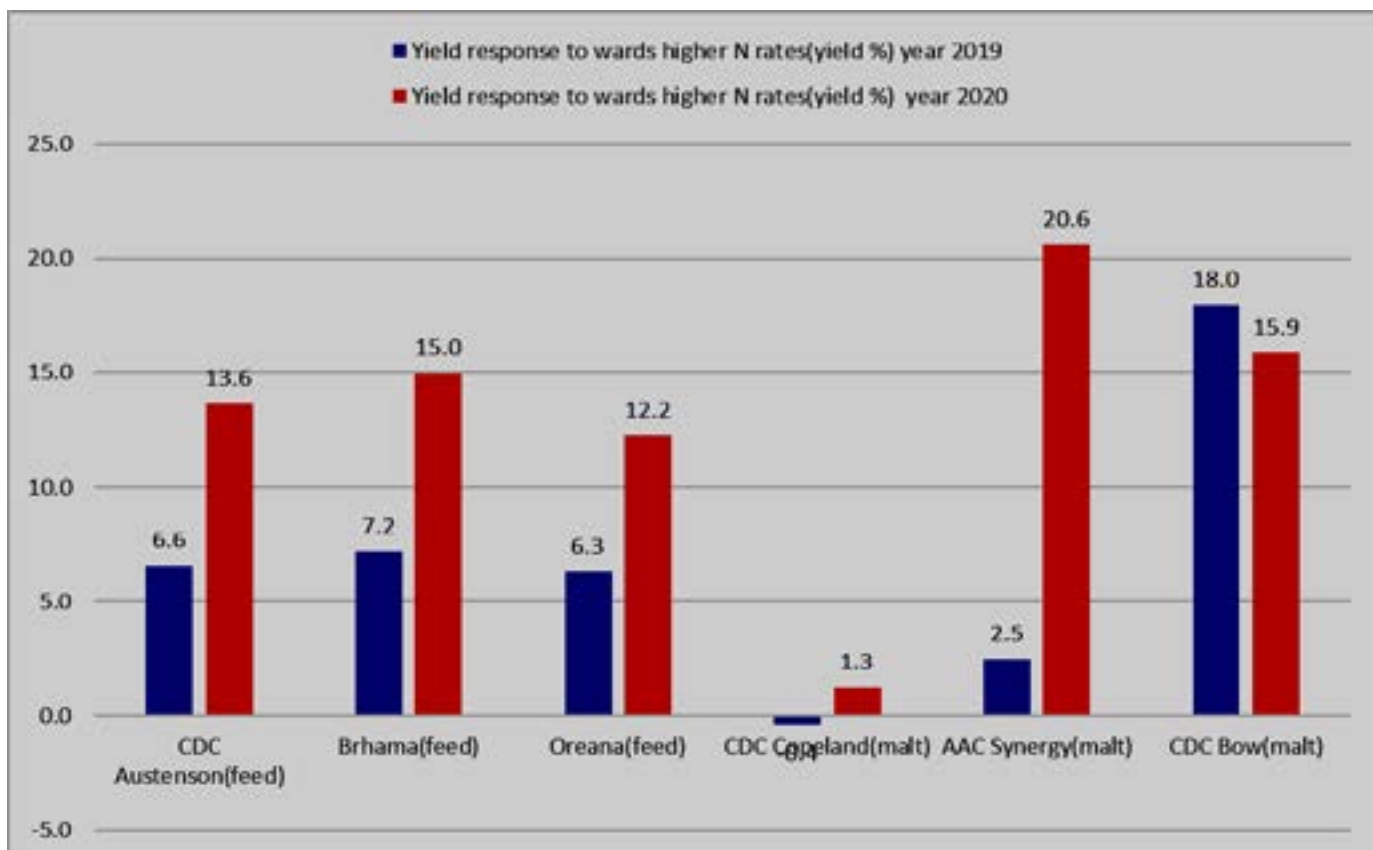


Figure 2. Barley yield difference towards N rates 80 and 140 kg/ha within each variety.



# EVALUATION OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN SEED SIZE AND SEEDING DEPTH ON CANOLA ESTABLISHMENT AND YIELD

The cost of canola seed is getting higher day by day. Producers are always looking for cost-effective seeding options. Development of new canola traits and precision planting equipment may alter seeding rates, depth recommendations and reduced overall seeding expense for canola.

This project was established to investigate the interactions of canola seed size and depth that has not yet been reported. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership program funded the project.

During 2020, the first year of the research, experiments were conducted in several locations across Alberta: Forestburg, Bonnyville and Falher, by Battle River Research Group (BRRG), Lakeland Applied Research Association (LARA), and SARDA Ag Research. The sites were located at Forestburg (BRRG), Fort Kent (LARA) and Falher (SARDA). The duration of the project is 2020-2023. The study aims to provide producers with the ability to improve on-farm production by understanding the interaction between seed size and planting depth on canola establishment and yield.

The study proved highly beneficial in unfavourable weather conditions where increasing planting depth allowed available soil moisture to be reached in the dry season. The following four seed size classes were utilized: 2.0-3.0 (TKW), 4.0-4.6 (TKW), 4.7-4.8 (TKW), and 4.9-5.7 (TKW), and seeded at three different planting depths: 1 cm, 2.5 cm, and 4 cm. The trial was laid in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with four replications to reduce error.

The appropriate fertilizer blend was applied to the research site based on a 100% recommendation. Agronomic characters evaluated included measurement of total precipitation and average daily temperature recorded, soil moisture at the time of seeding, emergence assessed through  $\frac{1}{2}$  m<sup>2</sup> plant counts, days to flower and maturity, plant height per plot and grain yield. No significant differences were observed in plant emergence and plant height; however, the canola's highest yield was recorded at a depth of 2.5 cm with a seed size of 5.3 (TKW).

## References:

Harker, K. N., O'Donovan, J. T., Smith, E. G., Johnson, E. N., Peng, G., Willenborg, C. J., Gulden, R. H., Mohr, R., Gill, K. S. and Grenkow, L. A. 2015. Seed size and seeding rate effects on canola emergence, development, yield, and seed weight. Can. J. Plant Sci. 95: 18

<https://www.canolacouncil.org/canola-encyclopedia/plant-establishment/seed-and-fertilizer-placement/>

Kenneth E. Lamb and Burton L. Johnson, 2004. Seed Size and Seeding Depth Influence on Canola Emergence and Performance in the Northern Great Plains. Agron. J. 96:454–461





	Treatment	Plant emergence (plant /m <sup>2</sup> )	Plant height (cm)	Yield (kg/ha)	Mean Difference Yield
1	2.8 (TKW) at 1 cm	37	116.30	2685.71	ab
2	2.8 (TKW) at 2.5 cm	43	112.50	2571.43	ab
3	2.8 (TKW) at 4 cm	38	111.30	2214.29	b
4	3.6 (TKW) at 1 cm	40	112.50	2285.71	b
5	3.6 (TKW) at 2.5 cm	39	111.00	2642.86	ab
6	3.6 (TKW) at 4 cm	40	115.80	2685.71	ab
7	5.3 (TKW) at 1 cm	43	114.30	3042.86	ab
8	5.3 (TKW) at 2.5 cm	45	116.00	3328.57	a
9	5.2 (TKW) at 4 cm	51	111.30	3000.00	ab
10	6.7 (TKW) at 1 cm	40	129.00	2614.29	ab
11	6.7 (TKW) at 2.5 cm	52	109.80	2428.57	ab
12	6.7 (TKW) at 4 cm	47	110.80	2714.29	ab
13	Check (mixture of all sizes)	41	114.00	2357.14	b

Means followed by same letter or symbol do not significantly differ (P=.05, Tukey's HSD).

# COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL CROP INPUTS AND BIO-STIMULANTS APPLICATION ON WHEAT, CANOLA, AND PEAS IN ALBERTA

Small plot research was conducted to assess the use of commercially available biostimulants products and packages. The study was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership fund (CAP). The duration of the project is 2019-2022. The study was established in central, southern and northern Alberta with the collaboration of BRRG, Farming Smarter and SARDA Ag Research.

The established study's primary objective is to evaluate and compare commercially available biostimulants effects on canola, pea and wheat production. Six soil amendment treatments, including traditional, advanced, traditional + ATP Chemtrition, traditional + Alpine Phazed Nutrition Program, traditional + Stoller Canada Advanced Program and traditional + Penergetic (at seeding & foliar) were applied on wheat, canola and peas. For each crop, treatment was laid out in randomized complete block design (RCBD) with four replications. The applied biostimulants packages did not show any significant differences for each crop at each research site in 2020.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine the statistical significance of fixed factors assessed at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Post-hoc mean separation of statistically significant treatments was performed using least significant differences (LSD).

Crop yield varied significantly across study locations (Figure 1), which is expected due to differing growing conditions. The Forestburg location received a late season hailstorm which may have reduced crop yields. Wheat

yield was higher for the advanced treatment compared to traditional treatment at the Lethbridge and Falher sites (Figure 3). Other biostimulants treatments did not show a statistically significant difference in wheat yield at these sites. At the Forestburg site, there was no difference in wheat yield among treatments, with the exception of traditional + Stoller treatment that led to lesser yield (Figure 2). Canola yield did not vary significantly across different treatments ( $p = 0.87$ ; Table 1). For field pea, the effect of treatments on yield varied across study locations, as indicated by significant interaction between treatment and location ( $p = 0.01$ ; Table 1). At Lethbridge, there was a significant increase in pea yield with the advanced treatment compared to traditional inputs, traditional + Alpine, traditional + ATP and traditional + Penergetic treatments (Figure 4). Additionally, traditional + Stoller treatment increased pea yield compared to traditional, and traditional + ATP treatments (Figure 3). However, there was no effect of treatments on pea yield at Falher and Forestburg locations (Figure 3).

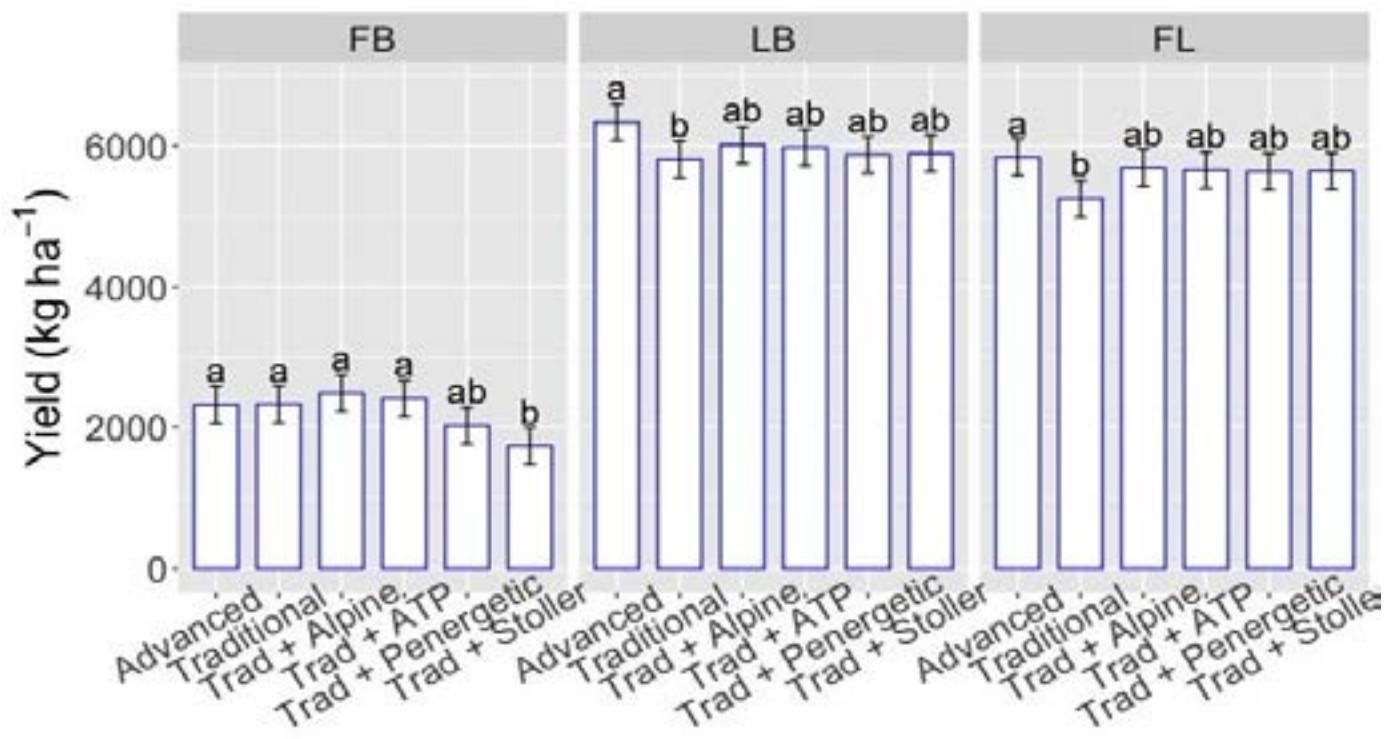
Seed protein content was available at this time for only the Lethbridge location, which was found to be statistically similar between treatment for all crops (Table 1). For biomass, wet weight was measured for Lethbridge and Falher locations, while dry weight was measured at Forestburg location.

Biostimulants treatments did not significantly affect wet biomass weight at Lethbridge and Falher, and dry biomass weight at Forestburg for any crop (Table 1).

**Table 1. F-values and p-values from analysis of variance for the effect of biostimulant treatments on yield, wet and dry biomass, and seed protein content for wheat, pea and canola.**

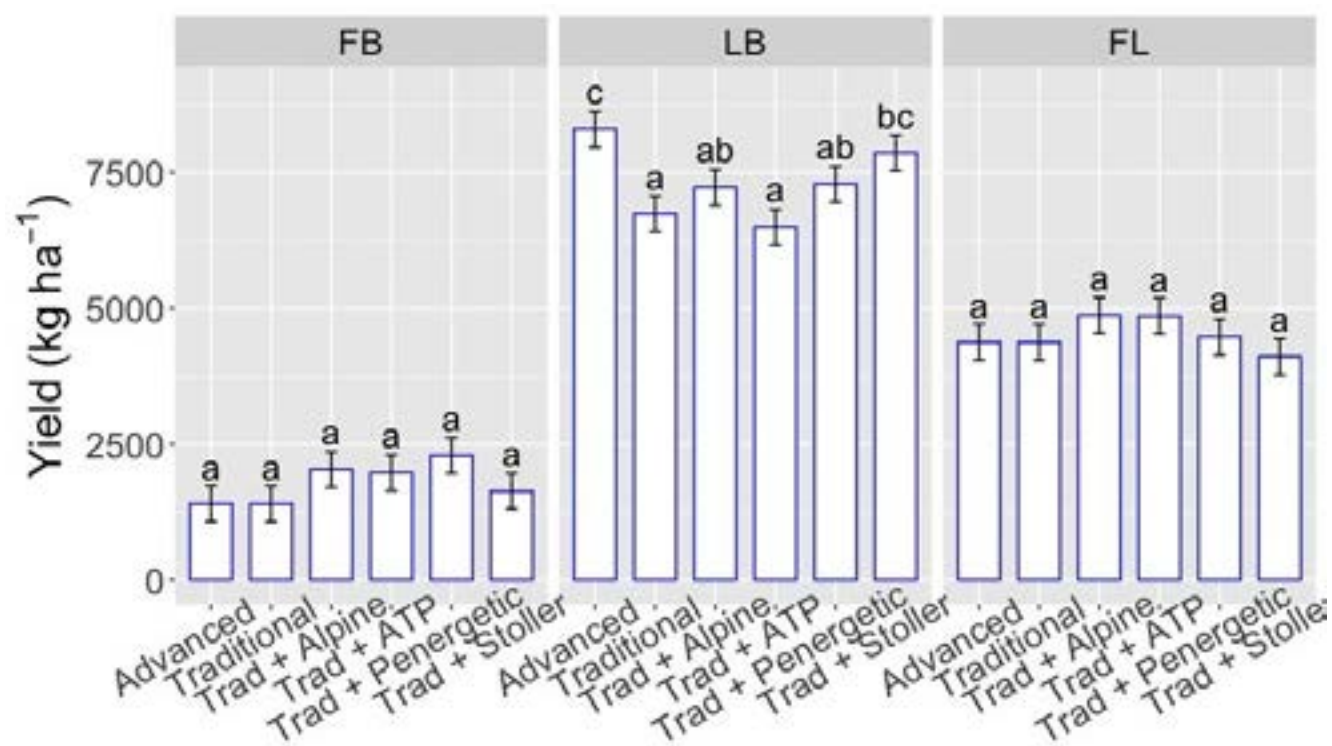
	Wheat		Canola		Field pea	
	F-value	p-value	F-value	p-value	F-value	p-value
<b>Yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)</b>						
Treatment	2.7	0.03	0.4	0.87	1.2	0.32
Location	98.0	<0.001	604.9	<0.001	426.1	<0.001
Trt*Loc	1.3	0.26	1.7	0.12	2.5	0.01
<b>Wet biomass (g) [Lethbridge and Falher]</b>						
Treatment	0.85	0.53	1.09	0.38	1.05	0.41
Location	46.0	0.001	130.4	<0.001	99.27	<0.001
Trt*Loc	0.88	0.51	0.99	0.44	1.38	0.26
<b>Dry biomass (g) [Forestburg]</b>						
Treatment	0.63	0.68	0.66	0.66	0.80	0.57
<b>Protein [Lethbridge]</b>						
Treatment	0.53	0.75	0.74	0.60	1.60	0.23

**Figure 2. Wheat yield for different treatments at various study locations (FB – Forestburg; LB – Lethbridge; FL – Falher).**





**Figure 3. Pea yield for different treatment at various study locations (FB – Forestburg, LB – Lethbridge, FL – Falher).**



# ULTRA EARLY SEEDING OF SPRING WHEAT VARIETIES

The shorter growing season of spring wheat usually results in limited grain yield in Alberta. Early seeding can be a strategy to help producers lessen the impact of the short growing season on spring wheat. However, the decision of seeding is entirely weather-dependent, such as how early farmers can seed while avoiding the risk of spring frost and operational limitations.

Previous research reported that the ultra-early planting of spring wheat at soil temperatures of 2 to 6 °C can increase yield, improve grain quality, and result in earlier maturity. It may have the extra potential advantage(s), such as reducing herbicide use and diseases with a broader harvesting window (Collier et al., 2020).

Last spring, a research project was initiated to determine the benefits of ultra-early planting of spring wheat in east-central Alberta. The experimental site was established in Forestburg, AB, by the Battle river research group. Two early-maturing spring wheat varieties (AAC Brandon and AAC Connery) were assessed for the impacts of three seeding rates (1.2, 1.75, 2.5 bu/ac) and two seeding dates (April 13, 2019, and May 14, 2019). The soil temperatures were recorded at 40°C and 70°C in April and May, respectively, at the time of seeding.

In 2019, undetermined differences were observed on the yield quantities within seeding dates and seeding rates; however, the AAC

Connery yielded more than AAC Brandon. The grain yield was not significantly different within seeding dates and rates.

In 2020, early seeding yielded more than standard date seeding, as shown in figure 2; however, this year, the protein content % of grain was higher in regular date seeding treatments.

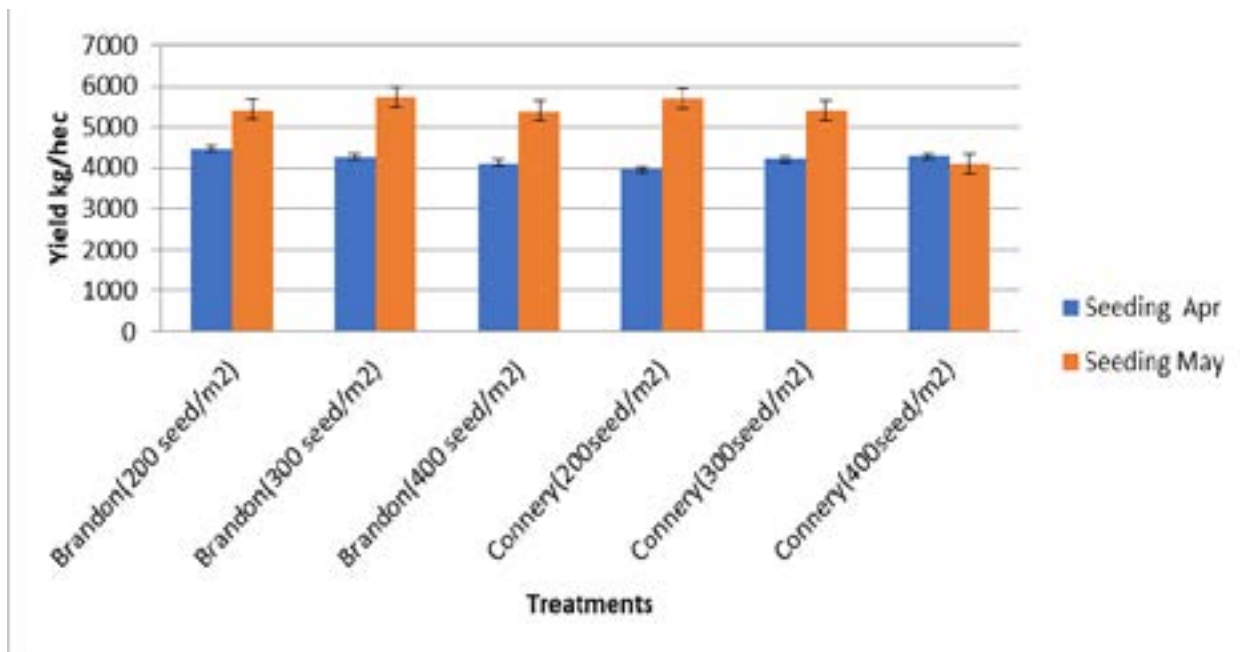
The samples' grade analysis was sent to the SGS lab, but due to wheat midge damage, sample results were not great this year. The highest seeding rate (400 seed/m<sup>2</sup>) produced a higher yield under both seeding dates for AAC Brandon. Though, no significant differences were observed for Connery.

We have entirely opposite outcomes both year, so we rely upon third-year results to conclude the experiment's outcome.

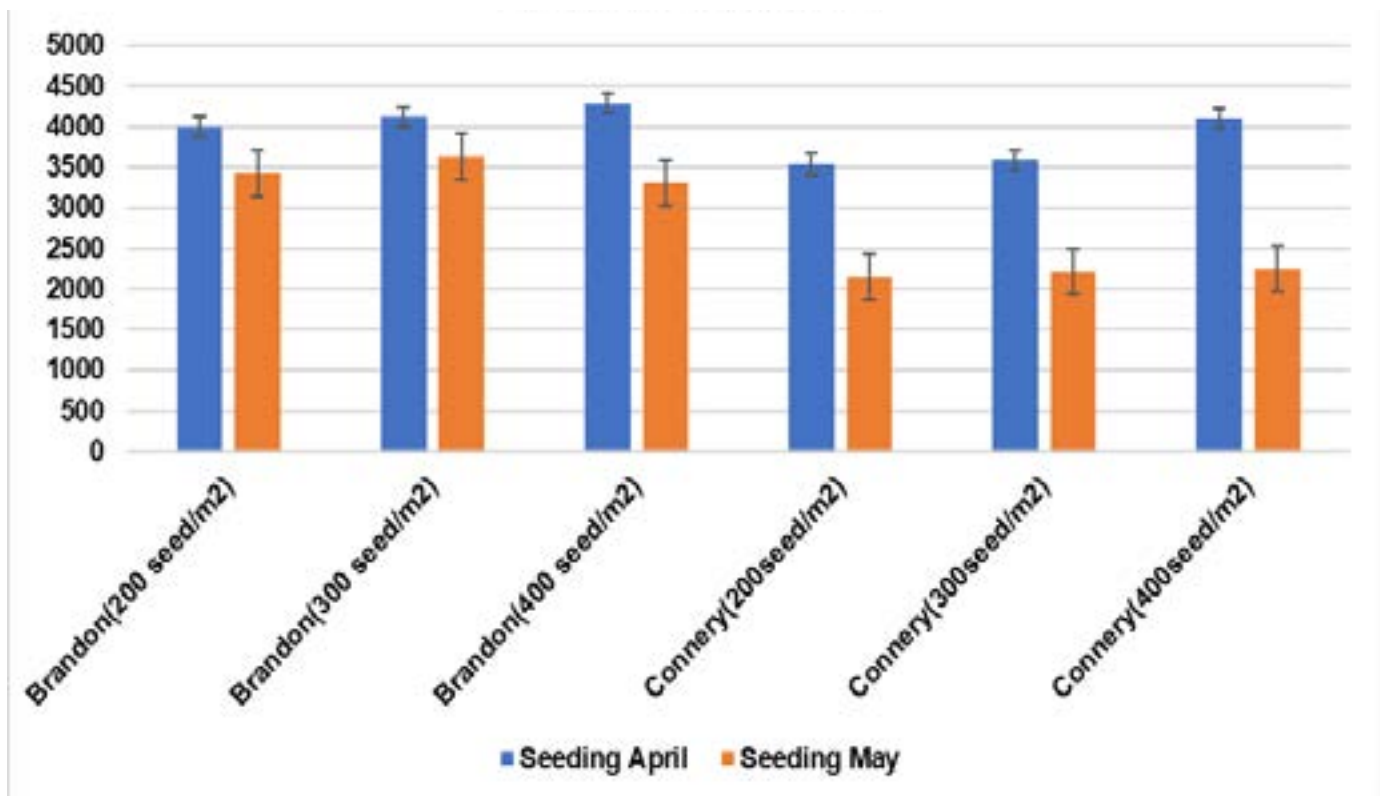
Thanks to the Alberta Wheat Commission and Canadian Agriculture Partnership program for funding this project. References

Collier GRS, Spaner DM, Graf RJ, and Beres BL (2020) The Integration of Spring and Winter Wheat Genetics with Agronomy for Ultra-Early Planting into Cold Soils. *Front. Plant Sci.* 11: 89.doi: 10.3389/fpls.2020.00089

## Yield kg/ha 2019



## Yield kg/ha 2020



# STRATEGIC GOAL 4 | 2020 PROGRESS

**Transfer unbiased updated Knowledge and technology information with regional producers**

## 2020 Extension Overview

Overall, 2020 was a good year for BRRG. Due to COVID-19, we were all stuck and were not able to conduct physical events this year. BRRG took advantage of tech and successfully connected with our producers through webinars, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. We also set up and opened our research sites for physical visits with safety measures, and arranged a physical crop walk event in 2020.

BRRG did not give up. With webinars and new regional ag services changes, BRRG decided to provide one-on-one consultancy to our producers. In November 2020, we organized our first specialist on-call free consultancy events for producers. With the positive response from our producers, we are continuing with the specialist on-call services in 2021 on a monthly basis with different specialists.

In addition to online events, we set up our research sites for visitors. We uploaded our field videos on our YouTube channel. We also put our publications including: 2019 BRRG At A Glance; Regional Variety Trial 2019; Over the Fence Line 2020 summer newsletter; and, this digital Annual Report 2020. Our publications are sent to all members of BRRG through email.

We also published collaborative articles on Agri News with other associations.

1. Interactive Forage Species Selection Tool for Western Canada (speakers: Karin Schmid & Dianne Wester Lund)
2. As we look at building soil health through regenerative grazing, It starts with a good pasture (speaker: Steve Kenyon)
3. Feed Quality and Lactating Cows (speaker: Barry Yaremcio)
4. Forage Mixture Strategies for Hay and Pasture (speaker: Grant Lastiwka)
5. Farm Cash Webinar 2020
6. On-call consultancy: Specialist on call (Barry Yaremcio)
7. Online Field Day presentations (Annual and Perennials FAQ)
8. Crop walks
9. YouTube videos (silage trials)
10. RVT 2019 (January 2020)
11. BRRG 2019 at a Glance (January 2020)
12. Summer newsletter (June 2020)
13. Annual Report 2020 BRRG ( January 2021)
14. Annual Growers Meeting 2020

### Membership/subscription

In 2020, BRRG made subscription and membership free for all producers.





# WHEAT MIDGE FORECAST 2021

The wheat midge forecast for 2021 shows an increase in wheat midge risk in east-central Alberta. Producers in that area should be considering midge tolerant wheat and other integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to minimize this risk. Wheat midge in both areas will remain a concern in individual fields, especially if there is late seeding and higher than average rainfall in the spring.

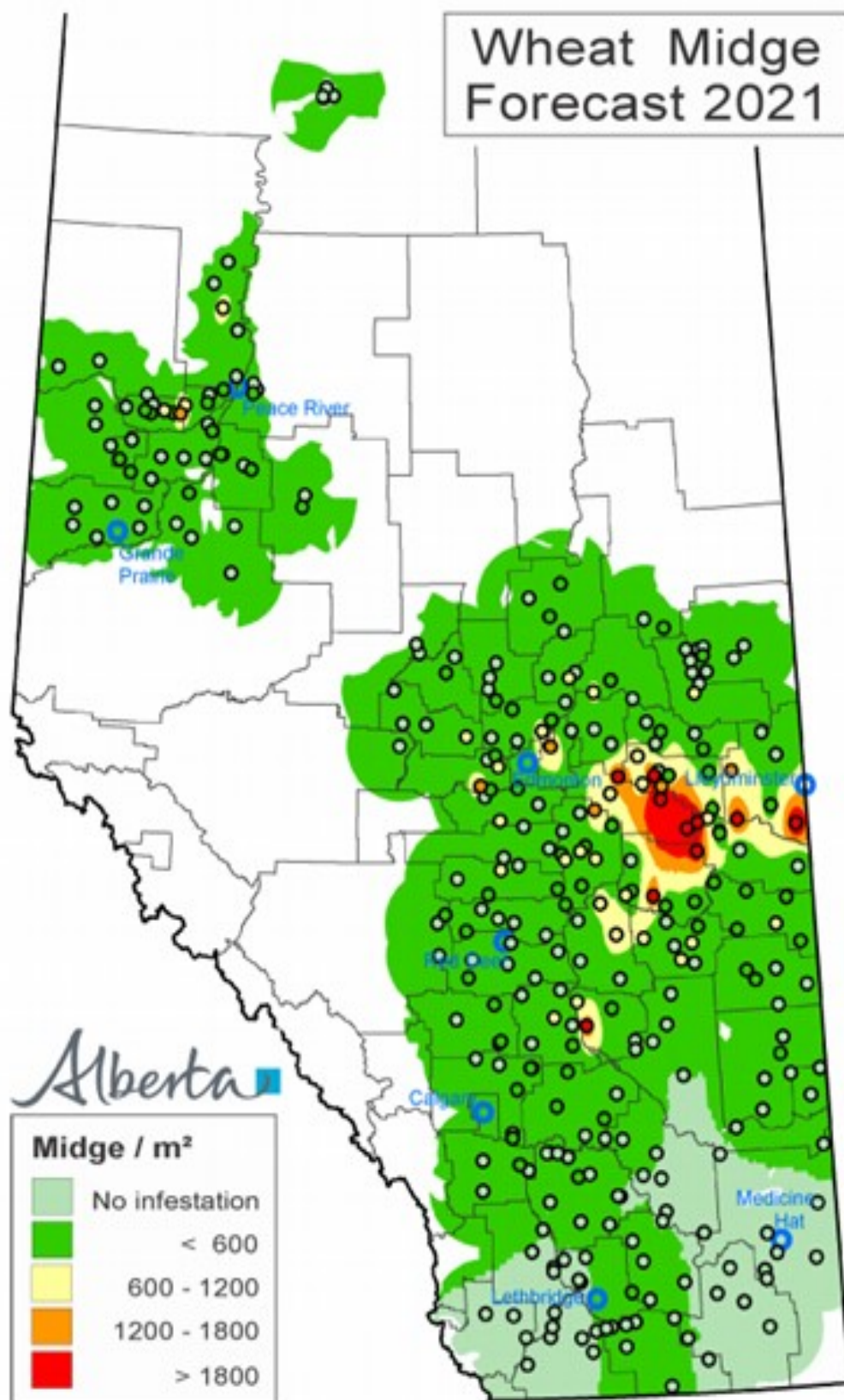
Once midge has been established in a wheat field, it is unlikely to ever disappear completely. Low-lying and moist areas in fields provide a refuge, enabling the population to survive even when conditions are not favourable in the rest of the field. These low population levels, however, also help sustain a population of natural enemies.

Parasitism of midge larvae by a small wasp species (*Macroglens penetrans*) has been essential in keeping wheat midge populations below the economic threshold in many areas. These beneficial wasps tend to thrive in warm, dry conditions. Parasitoid populations increase and decrease with changes in the midge population, and are very important in moderating Alberta's population levels. Parasitism levels in the 2020 survey samples were very low. Another way to control wheat midge is to seed wheat midge tolerant varieties.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry conducted the wheat midge survey with Alberta's applied research associations, including Battle River Research Group. The report is adapted from the Alberta government website, [Wheat Midge Forecast | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/wheat-midge-forecast-2021)

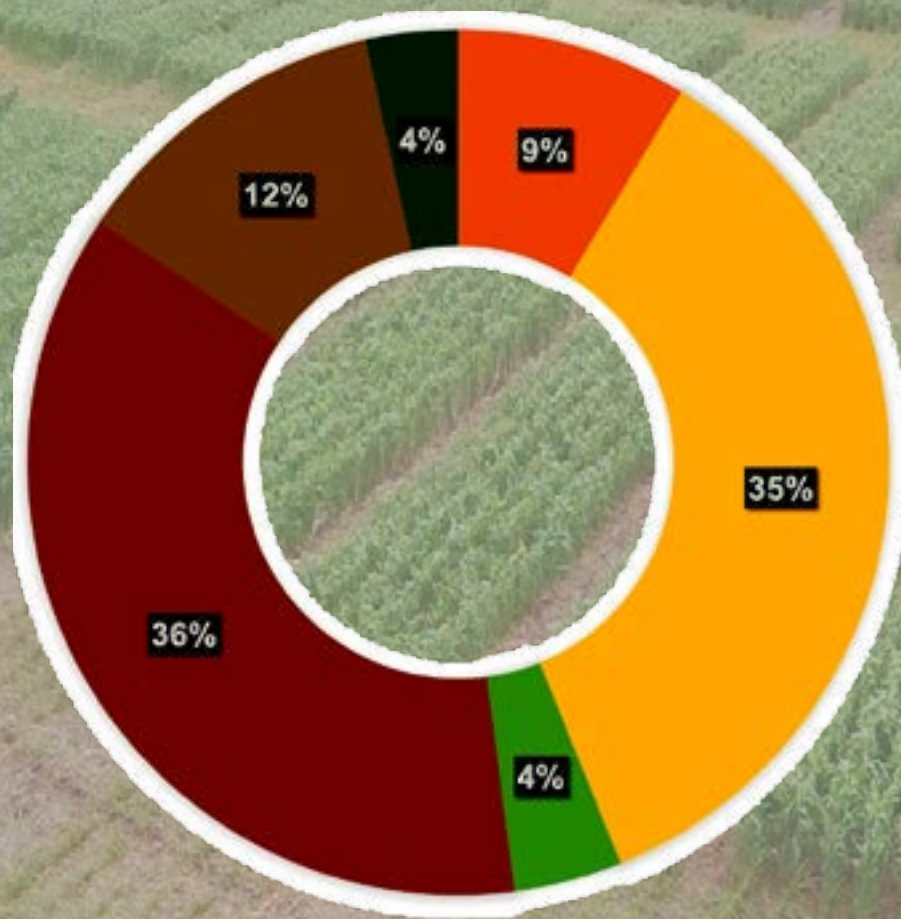
MIDGE TOLERANT VARIETIES	
CWRS	CPSR
AAC Alida VB	AC® ENCHANT VB
AACAMERON VB	AAC TENACIOUS VB
AAC JATHARIA VB	AAC FORAY VB
AAC LeRoy VB	DURUM
AAC PREVAIL VB	AAC MARCHWELL VB
AAC RUSSELL VB	CDC CARBIDE VB
AAC Starbuck VB	AAC Succeed VB
AAC Warman VB	CNHR
AAC Wheatland VB	AC® UNITY VB
AC® FIELDSTAR VB	AC® CONQUER VB
CDC TITANIUM VB	CDC Cordon CL Plus VB
CDC UTMOST VB	CWSP
SY Chert VB	KWS® CHARING VB
SY479 VB	KWS® SPARROW VB
AC® VESPER VB	AAC AWESOME VB
AC® SHAW VB	CWSWS
CDC Adamant VB	AAC INDUS VB
CDC HUGHES VB	AC® SADASH VB
CDC LANDMARK VB	AAC CHIFFON VB
AC® GOODEVE VB	CWES
	AC® GLENCROSS VB
Reference: <a href="#">Midge Tolerant Wheat</a>	

## Wheat Midge Forecast 2021





## 2020 Funding Resources



- Municipalities
- Core Funding
- Commissions
- CAP
- Industrial
- rvt/govt project



# **We are Thankful to our Sponsors**

Canadian Agriculture Partnership Program (CAP)  
AB Agriculture & Forestry (AF)  
Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)  
Farm Rite  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)  
Alberta Barley Commission  
Alberta Beef Producers  
Alberta Canola Producers Commission  
Alberta Wheat Commission  
Alberta Pulse Growers  
Canola Council of Canada  
Alberta Pulse Growers

**Thanks to our many other Sponsors and Advisors who helped in 2020**

Shelley Barkley  
Barry Yaremicio  
Union Forages  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## **Seed and Other Support:**

### **Co-Operators**

Vincent Brothers  
Grazing School for Women Committee  
Battle River Watershed Alliance  
Battle River Community Foundation  
Battle River Implements  
Nutrien Ag Solution Forestburg

**We apologize to anyone we unintentionally omitted**







## BATTLE RIVER RESEARCH GROUP | MEMBESHIPS

The Battle River Research Association (BRRG) came into existence after the amalgamation of the Battle River Forage Association and the Battle River Applied Research Association in 1993. We are in Forestburg, Alberta, allowing us to efficiently serve the east-central region of Alberta.

We serve the counties of Paintearth, Stettler, Camrose, Beaver, and Flagstaff, where our office is located. The Battle River Research Group has three programs to help serve the local producer, including the field Crops Program forage program, extension & Environmental Program.

BRRG Free Membership is open to agricultural producers or other agricultural stakeholders outside East Central Alberta interested in the Association's objectives.

Visit [battleriverresearch.com](http://battleriverresearch.com) to Become a Member.

