

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY  
WARREN FROELICH  
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE  
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

**Scouting for Flea Beetles Suggested**

Although last fall's survey for flea beetles indicates this area should not expect a large population of the insect, growers still are advised to scout canola fields for localized infestations and not rely on the efficiency of insecticide seed treatments, especially on early planted seed. The systemic seed treatments can provide protection against flea beetles for almost 21-25 days from planting. With canola seed sitting in the cool soil conditions of recent weeks or emerged and not growing, systemic seed treatments are not readily taken into the plant. This may result in reduced insecticide toxicity and residue against the beetle.

The recommendation of NDSU entomologist is to regularly scout seedling canola until the plants reach the 6-leaf stage. An action threshold of 25 percent injury would justify a foliar spray on top of the seed treatment. Research indicates that the best insecticide strategy for management of flea beetle was the high rate of insecticide seed treatment plus a foliar insecticide applied at 21 days after planting. The foliar spray on top of the seed treatment controlled later-emerging flea beetles as the seed treatment residual was diminishing and the crop became vulnerable to fading injury.

According to Jan Knodel, NDSU Extension Entomologist, the next few weeks will be critical for protecting canola against significant flea beetle damage.

For insecticides registered for Canola, consult the 2010 Field Insect Management Guide found on our website [www.ag.ndsu.edu/williams](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/williams) county extension.

**Early Season Tan Spot Management**

Normally the dry, low humidity conditions of Northwest North Dakota and Northeast Montana does not require early season application of a fungicide to protect our

small grain crops against leaf spot diseases. Continuation of the current weather pattern may change that.

A number of fungicides are available for control of early season leaf spot diseases in wheat. The following fungicides can be used on small grains in the early season: Bumper, Propimax, Propiconazole, Stratego, Quadis, (after jointing), Headline, Quilt, Penncozeb, Manzate, Dithane. All of the products have good activity against leaf spot diseases at the 3-5 leaf stage. The mancozeb's are protectants and generally are less rain fast than the other products.

NDSU research trials with winter wheat and with tan spot susceptible spring wheats have shown yield responses generally in the range of 4-5 bushels in wet years, and some responses up to 8 bushels. Average yield response is around 3 bushels. The greatest economic response from early season fungicide use occurs with rainy weather during early leaf stages.

### **Herbicide Rotations Urged**

In an effort to be better stewards of the soil and the environment, food producers (farmers) have dramatically changed the way food crops are produced. Such changes include using more continuous cropping, less tillage and less fuel. However, the changes have created a greater reliance on herbicides to control weeds which mightily compete for precious soil moisture and crop productivity.

Increased reliance on herbicides has tended to increase weed resistance to certain herbicides. So, weed scientists have urged the rotation of herbicide groups. However, applying Puma herbicide one year to a wheat crop, then applying Select Max the next year on field peas is not rotating herbicide groups. Although both of these herbicides have different active ingredients, they are classified as group 1.

One method of herbicide rotation for small grain growers is the inclusion of an **ALJ Enzyme Inhibiting** (Group 2) grass herbicide on small grain crops. Options for group 2 grass control would include Gold Sky and Orion or Everest and Rimfire Max. Doing this

will then allow use of group 1 herbicides for grassy weed control in canola, flax, peas and sunflower. Rotating groups of herbicides will prolong the effectiveness of some very good products.