



**May 2025**

## Ready Set Grow – Critical Weed Free Period

With warmer temperatures coming around the corner in the month of May, it's a good time to remind ourselves of the importance of weed control in high production cropping systems and the advantages that come from a foundational approach to weed management. The established critical weed free period for corn is VE-V3 (emergence to 3 leaf) and for soybeans is V1-V3 (1st to 3rd trifoliate). Significant weed pressure during this time of development will have an adverse effect on yield, while managing weeds early not only protects yield potential but also makes for a more consistent and higher quality crop.

In soybeans pre-emergent metribuzin applications are a great foundation for weed suppression but also the standard for fleabane control. Depending on soil type, the target is 150 – 200 grams of active ingredient using products like Boundary, Bifecta, and Triactor. Even Enlist soybean growers should be considering a pre-emergent application to lay a foundation for weed control before using glyphosate and Enlist 1 or Duo in crop. Corn growers are familiar with products like Acuron, Primextra, Corvus, and Integrity which are all great options with different strengths and weaknesses depending on what weed species you are targeting. Whatever you choose, focus on managing weed pressure early in crop establishment to maximize your return on investment and preserve maximum yield.

## Splitting Your Nitrogen Applications

Environment Canada is predicting a hot spring for Southern Ontario, so wheat fertilizer should be a priority as growth will begin to advance rapidly. While split application on N doesn't always offer a direct yield benefit, there are indirect benefits from a logistic and economic standpoint. If conditions don't show a risk of lodging or N loss, a single pass will save you time and money. In areas of more variability, which we know is all the more common, split applications could offer certain benefits:

1. An early application of N and S can stimulate tillering in late planted wheat, allowing you to save the rest of your N for later.
2. Potential for better N use efficiency or rate adjustments based on forecasts.
3. Allows you to apply more total season N while reducing the risk of lodging- especially in early planted wheat
4. Research suggests improved protein in hard red winter wheat from split applied N.
5. In terms of yield, whether or not you see a benefit is hard to predict and based on weather, application timing, and soil moisture.

If you and your agronomist decide split N is a good fit for your wheat crop, timing and rates need to be considered. The first application should go on as soon as possible in current conditions, anywhere from GS23 to GS32, which is shortly after stem elongation. Stem elongation occurs at GS30 and this is when N demand is high. The second pass can go on anytime between GS32 and GS40, but it is recommended to leave at least 1-3 weeks between your passes to optimize N use efficiency. The rate split depends on your wheat growth. Late planted fields that are less advanced should receive more N in the first pass (60% now, 40% in second pass), but if the field was planted early and is looking lush, putting down more N after stem elongation can reduce the risk of lodging and promote yield (40% now, 60% in second pass).

## Crop Input Financing Options

As spring is in full swing, make sure your farm business financing is secured for the season. All invoices from Holmes Agro are due by the 20th of the following month. Here are three financing options available:

FCC Crop Input Loan	Scotiabank Yield More Financing	Ag Credit Corp (ACC) – Advance Payments Program
<p>Apply online or through your Agronomist</p> <p><b>Interest:</b> Prime + 2.95%</p> <p><b>Repayment:</b> Due March 15, 2026</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> 1-888-522-2555</p>	<p>Apply online or through your Agronomist</p> <p><b>Interest:</b> Prime + 2.95%</p> <p><b>Repayment:</b> Due February 23, 2026</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> 1-866-603-4188</p>	<p><b>Loan Amount:</b> Up to 50% of expected farm gate value</p> <p><b>Interest:</b> First \$250,000 is interest-free, remaining balance at Prime (4.95%)</p> <p><b>Repayment:</b> As crops are marketed</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> 1-888-278-8807</p>

## Strengthening Our Commitment to Grower Support – Agronomy Team Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional support and agronomic expertise to our growers, we are pleased to announce several key additions to our Agronomy team, based out of the Orangeville region and surrounding areas.

These talented individuals bring energy, expertise, and a shared commitment to knowledge sharing, exceptional customer service, and innovative solutions for our growers. We are excited about the value they will bring to the team and the continued success of our agricultural partners. Please join us in welcoming them!

## Driving Safety – Don't Drive Distracted

Holmes Agro reminds all drivers do not use hand-held communication devices of any kind while driving – it's the law. Even if using hands-free and voice-activated dialing, it could still be a deadly distraction. **No text, email or phone call is worth your life, the life of a loved one or the life of another motorist or pedestrian!**

- Texting and driving make an accident 23 times more likely.
- Dialing your phone increases your chances of an accident by 2.8 times.
- 1 in 5 drivers confess to surfing the web while driving.
- Smartphones are the most common form of distraction for drivers.
- Making even the most basic text takes a minimum of 5 seconds of your attention off of the road when you text and drive.
- According to data from Transport Canada's National Collision Database, distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5% of fatal collisions and 25.5% of serious injury collisions in 2021. These statistics are part of an upward trend of distracted driving related collisions.
- Texting is more dangerous than drunk driving – **texting while driving is 6 times more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk.**

Source: 'Driving safety: an accident is likely to occur 23 more times with cell phone use.' The Andersons (2019)

## 2025 Product Return Deadlines

We accept returns for any unopened, undamaged seed, skids, bulk bags or unopened chemical jugs. We do ask the following:

1. If we are picking up returns at your site, we prefer it if you can be there to help load. If you cannot be, please leave returns out for us, and if required, we will ask for approval to use your equipment.
2. If you are bringing returns to any of our locations, please ensure all products are on a skid to help ease the unloading process. Please call ahead to let us know you are bringing back returns.
3. **Cereal and forage seed returns are due back by May 30th and corn and soybean seed returns are due by June 13th. All unopened chemical as soon as you are finished with the product or by July 31st.**



## Notice – Re Potential Canada Post Service Disruption Resulting in Delayed Mail Delivery

To ensure timely receipt of your monthly statements, we recommend signing up for emailed statements and invoices. Please message: [receivables@holmesagro.com](mailto:receivables@holmesagro.com).

We advise using alternate methods to send payments, including online banking, e-transfer or paying in person at our offices. Give us a call for assistance. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\* Please email [media@holmesagro.com](mailto:media@holmesagro.com) to sign up for our e-newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

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