



Fall Fertilizer: Investing in Next Year's Crop

Fall is one of the best times to invest in your soil and prepare for the season ahead. With more application windows and less spring pressure, fall fertility helps set your fields up for success.

Why it Matters

- **Nutrient Availability** - Phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium applied in fall have time to move into the soil, ensuring they're ready for early crop growth.
- **Base Fertility** - Replacing nutrients removed at harvest protects yield potential and keeps soils productive for the long term.
- **Efficiency** - Shifting applications to fall reduces spring workload and improves overall field efficiency.

Best Practices

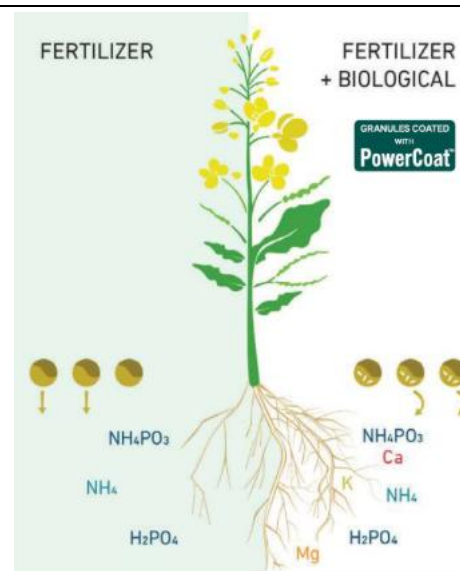
- **Soil Sampling** - The first step in any plan. Under 4R guidelines, samples should be taken every 3–5 years, with no more than 25 acres per sample.
- **Apply with Purpose** - Match product and rates to soil test results, crop needs, and rotations to get the best return.

The Payoff

Fall fertilizer improves nutrient use, supports healthier stands, and gives crops the strong start needed for higher yields. More than convenience, it's an investment in soil health, productivity, and sustainability. Talk to your Holmes Agro advisor about soil sampling and a fall fertility plan tailored to your fields!

Unlocking Crop Potential with Biologicals

Biological products are a great addition to help crops take full advantage of your fertilizer program. Mosaic's PowerCoat and BioPath both contain proven strains of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) and are made to work right alongside fertilizer, improving the nutrient uptake and supporting early growth. PowerCoat is a microbial coating that can be applied to dry fertilizer. It stimulates root growth, increases root branching, and boosts microbial activity in the rhizosphere (soil zone right around the roots). This helps to mobilize the phosphorus and potassium making them available when the plant needs it most in the early growth stages. In our research wheat plot the PowerCoat addition had a positive response, increasing yields up over 5 bu/ac with significant ROI, making it a low-risk way to support both nutrient efficiency and vigor. BioPath is a liquid biological product compatible with most starter blends and UAN solutions. The microbial strains produce organic acids and enzymes that solubilize nutrients, helping make the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients more available to the plant early on as well. Both products are particularly valuable in fields under stress or variable conditions. PowerCoat and BioPath are both meant to complement your fertility program by enhancing the nutrient availability and uptake, supporting stronger root systems, and helping plants reach their full potential. Talk with your local Holmes Agro agronomist and see if they are a right fit for you!



Returns For Fall 2025

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. Winter Wheat seed returns are due back by **November 10th**.

Did You Know – Potato Edition

In the spirit of all things harvest, here are some fun facts about one of Ontario's most versatile vegetable crops: the potato! Not only are potatoes Ontario's largest fresh vegetable crop, but it is also the world's fourth largest food crop grown. In Ontario, 97 potato growers are growing approximately 40,215 acres of potatoes, with each acre having the capacity to produce anywhere from 25,000 to 30,000 potatoes. Interestingly, of these potatoes, more than half of these potatoes are grown specifically to be made into potato chips.

Pride Seed Update – Written by Brendan Zettler, Sales Agronomist Pride Seeds

This has NOT been the year for tarspot, which is okay! The weather was dry and hot during the critical time which was not conducive for tarspot in corn. Tarspot likes 20ish degrees and at least 7 hours of leaf wetness in consecutive days. In saying this, it is a great time to be in the field to see how your season went. You would be checking for a couple of things.

1. **Tar spot** - if there is any, at this point the yield penalty will be minimal. If you used a fungicide this will delay or prevent any tar spot.
2. **Tip Back on corn cob** - this is to give you an idea how your variety handles stress.
3. **Lodging** - do you have corn root worm feeding or stalk diseases or other issues contributing to poor standability.

Pride Seeds varieties to look out for in plots this fall:

A5175 G2 - 81 Day Relative Maturity - 2425 chu - This is a VT Double Pro which means above ground protection against insects like Corn Ear Worm and Corn Borer and fall armyworm. Medium-tall variety with strong emergence with excellent stay green and plant health which will carry you through to harvest with late season intactness. This would be a good choice for dual purpose if you want an early season silage variety. Place this variety in your productive soils to reach maximum yield potential.

A5580 G4 - NEW for 2025 - 85 Day Relative Maturity - 2625 chu - A new addition to the lineup for Pride Seeds, this variety is exciting to watch as it is quick out of the ground in the spring. An excellent choice if you are doing strip till, reduced tillage or if you want a variety that pops out in the spring. This is a tall attractive plant that has strong stalks and great drought tolerance that aids in late season intactness. The G4 Trait package (Trecepta) provides above ground insect protection against insects like Western Bean Cutworm. Because this only has above ground insect protection place it on rotated acres.

A5775 G2 - 86 Day Relative Maturity - 2650 chu - A G2 hybrid which makes it a VT Double Pro which is best suited for your rotated acres. A medium- tall variety with a unique white cob makes this a good option as a dual-purpose variety for either grain or silage. This variety packs a punch with heavy test weight and late season plant health to fill kernels. This variety will handle your variable soils and provide consistent yields.

Last Day of Clean Farms Collection – October 17th, 2025

Clean Farms collections are still open, we are accepting returns until October 17th. Jugs must always be triple rinsed, with lids and labels removed. If there is product remaining in empty jugs, the bag will be rejected as improperly cleaned jugs cannot be recycled. Please call the office to be directed to the drop-off area when on-site. Thanks for your participation!

Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident

With the fall harvest and planting season gearing up, there comes long days of late nights, early mornings, and tired workers. Here are the top 5 safety tips to ensure a secure and productive harvest:

1. **Equipment Checks:** Prioritize equipment inspections before harvest. Ensure safety guards are in place, and all machinery is in good working condition.
2. **Training Matters:** Equip your team with proper training and regularly conduct safety sessions to reinforce best practices.
3. **Field Awareness:** Assess field conditions for slope, terrain, and moisture levels. Adjust operations accordingly.
4. **PPE Essentials:** Mandate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including helmets, gloves and hearing protection.
5. **Additional Safety Tips:**
 - **Working in Low Light:** When working in the dark, ensure all lights, flashers, and reflective tape on your equipment is functional. Be especially cautious during twilight and nighttime operations.
 - **Cold or Wet Conditions:** Dress appropriately for cold or wet weather. Wear layers, waterproof gear, and insulated footwear to stay warm and dry, reducing the risk of cold related illnesses.
 - **Bin Safety:** When working around grain bins, be cautious of suffocation hazards. Never enter a bin without proper safety measures and equipment. Train your team on proper grain bin safety procedures.



To encourage early adoption of safety practices, BASF is providing 2,000 safety scout and captain kits to encourage farm children to take on the role of safety ambassador on their own farm. Children aged 3-6 can become scouts, and children aged 7 and up can become captains. Each kit comes with a child-sized safety vest and activity sheets to stimulate important conversations about on-farm safety. It gives children tools and resources to take proactive steps to build a culture of safety on the farm. BASF is providing this program at a no cost to farm families across Canada. If your child is

interest, please visit [Our Stories - Safety Scouts - BASF](#) to sign up to get your kit.

Wishing everyone a safe harvest and fall planting season from the Holmes Agro Team!

Holmes Agro Credit Update During Postal Disruption

To ensure timely receipt of your monthly Holmes Agro account transactions, we recommend signing up for emailed statements and invoices. To enroll, simply reach out to us at receivables@holmesagro.com. **Reminder:** our account payment terms are net 20th of the following month. Mailing payments may incur service charges if lost or delayed due to the strike. We suggest using online banking, e-transfer, or paying in person at our office. Feel free to contact us at 519-941-0450 for assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

***** Please email media@holmesagro.com to sign up for our e-newsletter *****

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