

The Do's & Don'ts of Fall Weed Control

The foundation of a solid weed management program begins in the fall, not the spring when weeds are actively growing, potentially larger, and harder to eliminate. As always, multiple modes of action are highly recommended to manage the potential for resistance development. It's a great time to add some Eragon, 2-4D Ester, or even a dicamba formulation to improve efficacy and speed up visual control before final tillage passes occur. If you're one of the unfortunate souls dealing with glyphosate resistant weeds including fleabane, this is a REQUIREMENT and not an option.

1. **Do** keep asking the right questions! – Target weed species? How can a burndown complement my existing program?
2. **Do** use a tank mix partner. Whether an adjuvant to increase efficiency or a 2nd mode of action to reduce development of herbicide resistance.
3. **Do** wait 7 – 10 days before tillage to allow glyphosate to move into the plant roots.
4. **Do** keep re-cropping restrictions in mind especially if growing crops like canola, edible beans, and vegetables.
5. **Don't** spray immediately after frost. Wait 2-3 days or until weeds are actively growing.
6. **Don't** wait till the weeds are large and have gone to seed. Weeds are easiest to control when small and actively growing.
7. **Do** use proactive pre-emergent herbicide applications this spring. Fall burndowns are a great tool to get hard to control perennial weeds under control but should be used as part of proactive crop protection strategy.

We're here to help, give your agronomist a call. That's what they are there for!

Looking Ahead: Crop Budgets for The 2026 Growing Season

As fall approaches, it's time to start planning for the 2026 growing season. Crop budgets remain one of the most important tools for farm business planning. With commodity markets showing volatility and input costs holding steady, budgeting helps growers make informed decisions about crop selection and risk management.

Key Considerations for 2026

- **Yield & Price Assumptions:** Start with your farm's average yields and create alternate scenarios with higher and lower yields and pricing. This helps set realistic targets for marketing and ensures profitability under different market conditions.
- **Field Work Costs:** Don't overlook your own equipment and labour. Escalating equipment prices have driven up both custom rates and replacement costs, whether buying new or used. Factoring these into your budgets provides a truer picture of actual costs.
- **Profitability Outlook:** Budgets show that reasonable yields still offer positive margins in 2026. Specialty beans and IP soybeans provide some of the strongest returns, though they carry added risk. Wheat and barley show tighter margins but remain valuable for their rotational and agronomic benefits.

Developing and revisiting budgets throughout the season allows growers to adjust as markets and conditions shift. The most profitable farms in 2026 will be those that pair strong agronomy with disciplined financial planning. If you'd like support in building or refining your crop budgets for 2026, reach out to your **Holmes Agro agronomy team**—we're here to help.

Clean Farms Obsolete Chemical Collection Day – September 26th, 2025

Holmes Agro is once again hosting an Obsolete Chemical Day with the Clean Farms Program on Friday September 26th, 2025, at our Orangeville location. Eligible materials are old, obsolete, or otherwise unwanted pesticides (anything with a Pest Control Product Number) and animal health medications (anything with a Drug Identification Number). Liquid fertilizers are ineligible for this program.

Please bring pesticide products **only on the day of the event**. **No early drop-offs will be accepted.** For more info check cleanfarms.ca or call the Orangeville Office (519) 941-0450.



Winter Wheat Planting Considerations

As winter wheat planting season approaches, it is important to consider various factors to ensure the success of the winter wheat crop.

1. **Seeding Depth:** 1 inch - 1.5 inches is recommended. Soil conditions at planting play a key role in determining optimal planting depth. It is important to plant into moisture for quick, uniform emergence. Wheat planted at a depth of less than 1 inch is more susceptible to frost heaving, which can reduce its chances of surviving the winter.
2. **Planting Date:** It is important to plant winter wheat near the optimum date as planting too early increases the risk of Hessian fly, Snow Mould and Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus. Planting too late can result in yield loss of 1.1 bu/acre each day planting is delayed after the optimum date. To find your optimal wheat planting date check www.topcropmanager.com/taking-fall-planting-conditions-in-stride-for-winter-wheat/
3. **Seeding Rate:** The typical suggestion for most soils in Ontario is to use a seeding rate of 1.6 million seeds per acre when planting at the optimal time. If planting wheat past the optimal timing it is recommended that the seeding rate be increased by 100 000 seeds for every 7 days that pass.
4. **Starter Fertilizer:** The response to a starter fertilizer can be seen when it is applied with the seed at planting. As the soil temperatures get colder the availability of phosphorus decreases and root growth slows. Because of this placing fertilizer banded with the seed makes it the easiest for plant uptake.
5. **Machinery Maintenance:** Planting setbacks due to breakdowns can lead to optimum planting conditions to be missed. It is also important to ensure that the drill is achieving even depth and down pressure to ensure good seed to soil contact.
6. **Fall Weed Control:** Good yielding crops have no competition from the start. Fall applications of herbicide should be considered if weeds are present and no preharvest burndown was done.
7. **Variety:** Variety selection is crucial when choosing which winter wheat to grow. Some factors include adaptation to local conditions, disease resistance, yield potential, maturity timing, quality traits and economic considerations.

Talk to your Holmes Agro agronomist about what varieties are right for you!

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!

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. Thank you to those who returned their corn and soybean products in a timely manner. Fall crop production product returns are due back by September 26th. Winter Wheat seed returns are due back by November 10th.

We Want to See Your Agriculture Pictures

Every year we are proud to be able to provide a calendar of grower pictures, all thanks to your great submissions. Please send your calendar picture submissions to calendar@holmesagro.com by September 30th to be considered for the 2026 Holmes Agro calendar.

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

Jeff Bill James Taylor Greg Liz Scott John Lydia Brooklyn Claire