Get DON levels down and yields up with Bayer

The 2020 growing season in Ontario wasn't too bad in terms of DON levels in corn, which were much less severe than in 2018. Indeed, a survey conducted by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed that DON levels averaged out at less than 2 ppm across the province[1], which is consistent with long-term survey averages.

While that bodes well for 2021, experts say corn growers still need to stay vigilant when it comes to gibberella ear rot (GER) and the potential for DON contamination. The right weather conditions at the wrong time can turn a mild DON season into a terrible one in very short order.

Bayer can help you build a robust fungicide plan, starting with **Proline® fungicide**, the only fungicide registered to lower DON levels in corn while suppressing stalk rot, fusarium and, of course, GER.

With both systemic and contact activity, Proline gives corn growers excellent late season disease control that demonstrably protects grain quality and improves yield.

In Bayer field trials, spraying Proline reduced DON in grain corn by 41% and provided a 9% yield increase over the untreated check[2]. That's all money in the bank for a corn grower — whether selling corn on the market or feeding it to livestock — higher yields and higher quality grain pays off.

If you are looking for early-season disease management, choose **Stratego® PRO** fungicide. Applied between the 7-leaf stage and early tassel (or at disease onset), Stratego PRO controls key leaf diseases: rusts (common and southern corn rust), eyespot, grey leaf spot and Northern corn leaf blight. Not only that, but research has shown that Stratego PRO gives an average yield increase of 6% over an untreated check.[3]

WATCH FOR WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM

In addition to a robust fungicide program, growers need to be vigilant in scouting for signs of Western bean cutworm (WBC), which has become a major pest of concern in corn in Ontario – just one little larva per ear can result in a 15 bushel per acre yield loss.[4] Additionally, WBC feeding is a vector for increased risk of DON.

Adult moths lay eggs around early tasseling, depositing them on the upper surfaces of the top three or four leaves of the plant. When you see adult moths start to fly — usually in July — begin scouting for egg masses and keep scouting after moths have reached peak flight.

In order to effectively control WBC, be sure to spray an insecticide when you reach the economic threshold (eggs found on five out of 100 plants). **Decis® insecticide** is recommended as a tank mix with **Proline** for disease and insect protection in one pass. And if you notice WBC this year, be sure to consider purchasing corn seed with **Trecepta®** technology for your 2022 growing season. With three different modes of action for broad spectrum control of above-ground feeding pests, this trait delivers maximum protection from insect damage, including WBC.

[1] 2020 Ontario Grain Corn Ear Mould and Deoxynivalenol (DON) Mycotoxin Survey: https://fieldcropnews.com/2020/10/2020-ontario-grain-corn-ear-mould-and-deoxynivalenol-don-mycotoxin-survey/
[2] Source: 19 Bayer and grower co-operater trials (2008 to 2017). All trials had >4 ppm DON in the UTC. Combination of small and large plot. Yield trials: 7 Bayer and co-operater trials (2008 to 2017). Your results may vary depending on agronomic, environmental and pest pressure variables.
[3] Source: 24 Bayer corn trials (2013 to 2015). Your results may vary depending on agronomic, environmental and disease pressure variables.
[4] OMAFRA, Western Bean Cutworm Scouting and Management in Field Corn fact sheet: http://fieldcropnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/WBC-Scouting-and-Management-2018-Corn-Final-1.pdf

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

New Laudis herbicide ups weed control possibilities in corn

If you've been struggling with glyphosate-resistant biotypes of Canada fleabane, giant ragweed or waterhemp in your corn crops, look no further than **Laudis® herbicide**.

New from Bayer, Laudis provides excellent post-emergent control of those big three weeds, as well as other key broadleaf weeds, like common ragweed, lamb's-quarters, redroot pigweed and velvetleaf.

"Glyphosate resistance is a real issue for corn growers," says Andrew Chisholm, trait and trait launch manager with Bayer CropScience. "Laudis is a Group 27 herbicide, so when you tank mix with another effective mode of action, specifically atrazine or dicamba, you can get great control of these tough, resistant weeds."

Registered for use in field and sweet corn, Laudis has two approved application rates that growers can choose from. The higher rate (220 mL/ha) provides rapid burndown and up to three weeks of residual activity, which makes it a useful tool against later emerging weeds, like Canada fleabane. Both rates give growers the fast, consistent weed control they want under a variety of conditions.

Laudis also has a built-in safener for exceptional crop safety along with favourable intervals for typical rotation crops like soybeans, potatoes, spring and winter wheat.

"Laudis is a powerful new addition to our corn herbicide offering," says Chisholm. "It's an excellent post-emergent herbicide, and we have excellent tank mix partners in our portfolio, including our Roundup® brands like **Roundup WeatherMAX®** with **Transorb® II Technology** or **Roundup Xtend®** with **VaporGrip® Technology** for low volatility. Plus, Laudis herbicide is part of 2021 **BayerValue™ Rewards**, which is great for growers looking to maximize their rewards.

"We're pretty excited about bringing Laudis to corn growers in Canada," says Chisholm. "This marks the beginning of a new era in corn crop protection from Bayer."

13 Years of fungicide performance data at your fingertips

Bayer has been publishing fungicide trial results since 2008. It's one of the most transparent and robust product performance database you could hope for as you sit down to make fungicide decisions this year.

Visit **ItPaysToSpray.ca** where you can look at over a decade's worth of fungicide trial results and download the new 2020 results booklet. It includes information on new products, like Proline® GOLD, and TilMOR™ fungicides as well as trusted products you already know such as Delaro®, Proline® and Prosaro® XTR.

You'll see concise crop-by-crop summaries, individual trial location results and an ROI calculator to help you formulate your fungicide plans, and get the most out of your inputs.

Don't let sclerotinia take away bushels this year!

Sclerotinia has always been the disease to beat in canola. The key to doing so is to have a good understanding of the disease itself — from conditions that cause outbreak, to correctly anticipating infection levels and more — along with a good fungicide plan that includes the right product and knowing when best to apply it.

Here are some things to think about when it comes to understanding and properly managing sclerotinia in canola this year.

Low sclerotinia pressure in one year doesn't mean low risk the next year

Because canola is grown right across the Prairies, sclerotia — fungal storage bodies — are everywhere in the soil just waiting for the right conditions to germinate. Sometimes those conditions don't occur and they remain dormant, potentially for up to five years, waiting for their opportunity.

That's why when disease pressure is low one year, it doesn't necessarily mean it will be low the next. Given the right conditions, sclerotinia pressure could be very high after a year of almost nothing. It's a good idea to just assume there will be some level of sclerotinia pressure and plan for it in advance.

Moisture means more than rain

Most canola growers understand that a good rain at or just before flowering is a risk factor for sclerotinia. But moisture can also refer to the warm, humid microclimate under a heavy crop canopy, which can lead to a disease outbreak. Other moisture-related risk factors include high humidity, or heavy morning dew.

Get busy with preventative sprays

Fungicide applications targeting sclerotinia occur during flowing, but at this stage you cannot see the infection. By the time you see physical symptoms of sclerotinia, such as stem or leaf lesions, it's already too late to prevent yield loss. The general rule of thumb is that yield loss is roughly half of the infection rate you see in the field. So if 30 per cent of the crop is infected, you stand to lose 15 per cent of your yield.

With canola prices where they are this year, even a five or ten per cent loss could be a major hit to your bottom line. So if it looks like your canola has good yield potential and conditions are right for sclerotinia, then don't hesitate. Drop everything and make an application of **Proline®** or new **Proline GOLD** fungicide at around 20 to 50 per cent bloom and protect that yield.

Both Proline GOLD and Proline are available in Western Canada in 2021, and let you target sclerotinia by severity risk, ensuring that each acre gets the exact protection it needs. But how do you decide which one to use?

Choose new Proline GOLD for high disease pressure situations. Proline GOLD has two modes of action that work in synergy to provide outstanding disease protection for excellent yield potential.

Choose Proline for robust sclerotinia protection in normal conditions. Proline fungicide consistently provides strong sclerotinia protection and continues to be a great broad acre fit across canola growing regions. In 2020, and for 12 straight years, more growers have trusted Proline fungicide on their canola than any other sclerotinia product on the market.*

**Source: BPI Data (2009 to 2020) - Canola Fungicide Treatments.*

Drawing a line in the dirt with our fungicide guarantee program

We at Bayer are so confident in the performance of our fungicides that, once again, we're backing them up with the 2021 Bayer Fungicide ROI Guarantee Program.

Here's how it works: if an eligible Bayer fungicide has a lower ROI than an eligible competitor product, Bayer will rebate the difference on up to 160 acres to eligible participants.*

Potential participants must have an active subscription to Climate FieldView™ where they will track their fungicide applications, and they must also be signed up to the 2021 BayerValue™ Grower Rewards Program.

For complete details, a list of eligible products, plus program terms and conditions, please visit **LineInTheDirt.ca**

** Participation is limited and at the discretion of Bayer*

New fungicides for Canadian farmers

As you prepare for spray season, Bayer continues to add to its already formidable fungicide portfolio with four new innovative products across Canada.

"Preventing yield and quality losses from disease is always a challenge," says Mark Alberts, crop and campaign manager, cereals with Bayer. "These four new fungicide products give farmers across Canada better tools to do that job, whether it's increased residual control against disease in corn and soybeans, or a new standard of disease protection in cereals and canola".

EASTERN CANADA

Delaro® Complete fungicide has three modes of action that work together to combat some of the toughest diseases in corn, soybeans and cereals under a variety of conditions.

- **NEW Group 7 (fluopyram)** in corn and soybeans works by disrupting spore germination and also has a greening effect, which improves a plant's ability to photosynthesize. It's ideal for high disease pressure situations because it moves rapidly through the plant and offers residual disease protection.
- **Group 3 (prothioconazole)** has longer residual activity than most other Group 3 fungicides. It also has better post-infection properties than Group 7 and Group 11 fungicides and is particularly effective against white mould.
- **Group 11 (trifloxystrobin)** acts like a backbone by providing broad-spectrum disease protection against moulds, mildews, rusts and leaf spot.

"Think of Delaro Complete as an evolution of the Stratego® PRO you already trust, only with a new Group 7 active ingredient added to the formulation," says Eric Comte, crop and campaign manager, pulses and soybeans. "This is true multi-mode-of-action disease protection." It adds up to effective, consistent disease control in corn and soybeans.

In corn, new Delaro Complete can be used preventively to protect crops from key diseases like common rust, Northern corn leaf blight and tar spot.

In soybeans, Delaro Complete provides protection against major soybean diseases, including Asian soybean rust, brown spot and phomopsis, and increased protection against white mould.

WESTERN CANADA

Proline® GOLD fungicide really takes the fight to sclerotinia in canola with two modes of action, Group 3 (prothioconazole) and Group 7 (fluopyram). These two highly effective active ingredients provide contact and systemic activity, and work in synergy to give you excellent disease protection for exceptional yield potential.

"Proline has been the market leader and most widely used and trusted sclerotinia fungicide for the past 12 years," says Jamie Mills, crop and campaign manager, canola. "We are very excited to add Proline GOLD to our canola fungicide offering and allow growers to target sclerotinia by infection risk across their operation." In 15 Bayer Market Development Trials conducted in 2020, Proline GOLD was the leading product outperforming the competitor fungicides.[1]

"If you grow canola, you know that sclerotinia is a potential threat every year," says Mills. "I think farmers will be really impressed with Proline GOLD; how well it works in high pressure situations and how easy it is to use."

TilMOR™ fungicide for cereals is the new flex-timing product you've been looking for.

"Spray timing is always the issue when it comes to fusarium head blight (FHB) management," says Alberts. "What's great about TilMOR is that you can apply it from flag leaf right through to heading, so you have a lot more flexibility to time an application based on what's actually happening in the crop, and your schedule."

Alberts is quick to point out that TilMOR is about much more than just FHB. "It is really effective against all the major cereal leaf diseases (including) stripe, stem and crown rust, net blotch, Septoria, spot blotch."

TilMOR contains two Group 3 active ingredients, prothioconazole and tebuconazole, for both protective and curative activity and is registered for use in wheat, barley and oats. In Bayer trials, TilMOR out-performed Folicur® EW fungicide, providing an almost seven per cent yield increase[2].

"We are also very excited to be launching another new fungicide this year, **Prosaro® PRO** for cereal farmers," says Alberts. "It's a powerful addition to the cereal fungicide lineup and the overall *It's Grow Time* portfolio."

Prosaro PRO contains two Group 3 actives, prothioconazole and tebuconazole, as well as a Group 7, fluopyram, for true multi-mode of action disease protection.

Prosaro PRO fungicide sets the standard as the only foliar fungicide to deliver effective protection against ergot, FHB and leaf disease in barley, oats, triticale and wheat. With multiple modes of action from three powerful active ingredients, it provides exceptional protection in high disease situations. So when you want to maximize your return on investment, reach for Prosaro PRO.

"I think farmers will be really impressed with all of these new fungicide offerings," says Alberts. "Our goal is always to help farmers maximize yield and protect crop quality, and we're certainly very proud to be living up to that promise with new, innovative products."

[1] Source: 15 Bayer Market Development Trials (2020). Cotegra® fungicide std. rate = 40 ac./jug.
[2] Source: 9 medium to high disease internal Bayer trials in Barley (2017-2019).
Your results may vary according to agronomic, environment and pest pressure variables.

Anthracnose rising: Delaro can help

If you grow lentils, anthracnose is probably at or near the top of your list of concerns.

Disease surveys in Saskatchewan, where the bulk of Canadian lentils are produced, found anthracnose in 92% of tested fields and, worse, confirmed the presence of insensitivity to Group 11 (strobilurin) fungicides*. That means there are strains of *Colletotrichum lentis*, the pathogen that causes anthracnose, out there in "the wild" that are not adequately controlled by your usual fungicide tools.

How far and wide this problem ranges has yet to be determined, but what is certain is that pulse growers are well advised to take protective measures now, not just in your lentils, but in all your pulse crops.

That starts with the usual resistance-fighting strategies, such as adequate crop rotation, screening seed for disease, planting resistant varieties, residue management and proper scouting. But it should also include a robust fungicide program – one that includes different modes of action, not only to keep anthracnose in check, but also to keep resistance at bay.

Start with **Delaro**® fungicide. The fungicide of choice for pulse growers,** Delaro is the ideal foundation product for any pulse spray program. Its dual mode of action, which includes a Group 3 (prothioconazole) alongside a Group 11 (trifloxystrobin), provides fast, long lasting protection against anthracnose and ascochyta in lentils, chickpeas and field peas.

Depending on the weather conditions, disease type and severity of infection you may need a second pass. For that, look to Delaro again, but if you're targeting the same disease as you did in your first pass, you can switch to **Proline**® or new **Proline GOLD** fungicides.

And remember, these choices are crop dependent. Proline fungicide is a stand-alone Group 3 for effective control of ascochyta and sclerotinia in lentils and chickpeas.

For dry and edible bean growers, Proline GOLD, Group 7 and Group 3 fungicide, controls anthracnose, ascochyta, and *Mycosphaerella* blight, among other key pulse diseases.

Effective disease management in pulse crops requires a plan and fast action. Let Bayer help with our lineup of excellent pulse fungicide products.

*Source: Pulse Advisor Newsletter, June 2020: https://saskpulse.com/files/newsletters/200629_Insensitivity_to_Fungicides_in_Lentils.pdf
**Source: Based on 2020 AgData BPI Pulse Fungicide Report (December 1, 2020)

DEKALB Canola Prosper EverGol Assurance Program

Prosper® EverGol® and **BUTEO™ start** seed treatments protect your hybrid canola against the most damaging diseases and insects including flea beetles, seed rot, seedling blight and damping off. Striped flea beetles are becoming the dominant species in many canola-growing regions, and that can be bad news because they emerge earlier than the crucifer species and feed more voraciously. Even canola crops protected with a seed treatment can be at risk and it is always important to scout your canola fields to determine pest pressure and assess proper economic thresholds.

If a foliar insecticide ends up being needed, you could be eligible for a rebate on Decis® insecticide if you see flea beetle feeding damage of 25 per cent or greater (at or before the four-leaf stage) in your canola hybrid that's been treated with:

- Prosper EverGol and DEKALB® Helix® Vibrance® Seed
- Prosper EverGol + BUTEO start Seed Treatments
- DEKALB hybrids with Helix® Vibrance® plus Fortenza® Advanced Seed Treatments

Please contact the Prosper EverGol Assurance number @ **1-844-250-9362** to determine if you qualify for a rebate* on Decis insecticide.

You must sign up for this program by June 30, 2021 in order to be eligible. For full program details, please visit **cropscience.bayer.ca**.