

# PULSE RESEARCH: USEFUL IN PLOTS, BETTER AT FIELD SCALE

In 2016, the Alberta Pulse Growers began an initiative to bring small-plot research to growers' fields. One aim was to empower farmers to answer management questions for their own farm. The second was to develop scientifically testable, statistically sound data to add to the existing knowledge base of pulse science and agronomy.

Plot to Field, as the initiative is known, has been running successfully for the past four growing seasons. In 2020, despite restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic, most Plot to Field efforts proceeded as planned.

Field-scale experiments were conducted in cooperation with growers at 10 sites. One study looked at the benefits of adding phosphorus. Preliminary results show that when soil phosphorus levels at 0" to 6" and 6" to 12" were deficient or marginal, yield increased in line with increasing rates of phosphorus added.

However, where soil had optimal phosphorus, addition of phosphorus did not bring any consistent yield benefit. This practice should be approached with caution considering the additional costs of application.

"APG is grateful for the strong group of agronomists and farmers who form the Plot to Field dream team," said APG Research Director Dr. Jenn Walker. "These people provide valuable guidance, insight and are directly responsible for the calibre of the data harvested."

*"These are things that may seem peripheral to farmers' interests, but they are becoming more and more important to the people who buy our commodities and, therefore, by default become important to our bottom lines. We need to be involved in these topics and adapt where needed, but be ready to push back against misinformation from those who don't understand our businesses."*

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