



ZONE UPDATES

The zone updates below were supplied by the chair for each zone. If there is any information that you think would be valuable to producers as part of these reports, please email rpeter@albertapulse.com.

ZONE 1 ADVISORS:

Jenny Rae Seward, Chair

Will Muller, Vice-Chair

David Pepneck

Greg Stamp

Shane Keijzer

John Kolk

Ryan Mercer

Clayton Schmitt



Zone 1 advisors and directors toured Viterra’s dry bean plots this past July to get an up close look at a potential new variety. We would like to make this an annual event with other stops, and open it up to our growers in the future. Special thanks to Adam Unruh and Jim Rex who took the time to lead us in the plots!

Intense July heat and lack of rain brought harvest right at the beginning of August in the south, with many pulse crops coming off at average, slightly below, and slightly above for our area. The early seeded crops did the best (even though a seeding delay this spring set our usual seeding dates back by up to two weeks in some areas).

The long, warm fall of 2023 had many growers concerned about grasshopper populations this season, but the cool, wet spring delayed development of certain pest species and intervention was not needed in many fields like past seasons. Pea aphids started to show up in lentils late in the season, which many growers are also starting to monitor more closely.

The dry bean crops are starting to turn fast at time of writing this update (August 20) and growers are hopeful for a decent harvest. I’m looking forward to seeing many pulse growers at the Zone 1 fall meeting on December 3. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Zone 1 Advisory committee.

- Jenny Rae Seward

ZONE 2 ADVISORS:

Allison Ammeter, Chair

Curtis Hoffmann, Vice-Chair

Kevin Auch

Gerry Good

Peter Hoff

Bill MacFarquhar

Joe Rowbottom

Landon Sell

Kelly Wheeler



Crops across the zone suffered from lack of moisture and extreme heat this summer. The crops went into early harvest because of that. Harvest results have revealed poorer yields (as expected, due to drought and heat), but decent quality. Weed pressure in pulses continues to be an issue. There was a great deal of hail in the southern part of Zone 2 that severely impacted some farmers but the overwhelming impact has been extreme heat and lack of water.

Zone 2 advisors combined a crop tour of CDC Saskatoon with a day at Ag in Motion in July. We were given a very thorough tour of the many CDC pea, lentil, and faba plots, along with rationale of the varieties being bred. The next day, we enjoyed a day of viewing static displays, performance trials, and exhibitor booths at the largest outdoor farm show in Western Canada. Ag in Motion is definitely worth a trip. Please join us for the Zone 2 annual meeting at Agri-Trade on November 14.

- Allison Ammeter

ZONE 3 ADVISORS:

- 
- Dawna Nanninga, Chair
 - Brendin Serna, Vice-Chair
 - Chris Allam
 - Lucas Bell
 - Zach Olthuis
 - Shane Strydhorst
 - Dan Visser
 - Magnus von Rennenkampff

The 2024 growing season thus far has been generally disappointing due to the weather seen across much of Alberta and beyond. On the bright side, most pea crops are doing all right as the temperature tolerance is higher than fabas. We are expecting quite low yields on the faba acres; minimal pods per plant if any, along with minimal beans per pod. FLOWER BLAST!!!

Along with GRO and Alberta Canola, we hosted a crop tour again this summer on July 29, 2024. The pulse plots were hailed out two days prior to the tour, which was unfortunate. Shane Strydhorst (Alberta Pulse Growers Chair) and Bijon Brown (Alberta Canola) both gave an overview on what the commissions do on behalf of producers. Accurate knowledge regarding the new capital gains legislation and the underused housing tax legislation was provided. Both commissions are actively advocating for the farmers to be exempt. Please keep up this important work so our voices can be heard and thank you for taking on this huge multifaceted task!

Alberta Pulse Growers (Zone 3) and Alberta Grains (Zone 5) 2024 fall AGMs are being hosted together on November 5 in Barrhead. Please contact your local advisor if you have any questions, would like to register, or are considering getting more involved with APG.

I pray you all have a safe harvest filled with good memories!

- Dawna Nanninga

ZONE 4 ADVISORS:

- 
- Beverley Wieben, Chair
 - Peter Konstapel, Vice-Chair
 - Samuel Meyer
 - Caroline Sekulic
 - 4 vacancies

The growing conditions this year included a cool and wet June with a good start for the growing season. As July came around, so did the heat for many weeks with no significant rainfall in most of the area. Some producers were lucky enough to get timely rains and will see good yields. Harvest started early on peas and lentils in the Peace Country. It's too early to say the percentage of combining completed at the time of writing (August 19). In August, we can definitely feel the change in the weather and the wind has a bit of bite to it that we are more used to seeing in September.

In July, the zone hosted the APG board meeting, and directors and staff toured plots at AAFC Beaverlodge with Dr. Jennifer Otani, PCBFA plots at Fairview and visited board members' farms.

Zone 4 is pleased to welcome Samuel Meyer of Woking as an advisor, and welcome back Caroline Sekulic of Rycroft.

Saddle Hills County and Peace Country Beef and Forage Association have an ongoing trial on 10+ pea varieties, which is currently in its second year. I'm wishing everyone a safe harvest and looking forward to seeing many growers at the Zone 4 fall meeting on November 12 in Fairview. If you are interested in becoming an advisor in your zone, please reach out to me or the APG office.

- Beverley Wieben



ZONE 5 ADVISORS:

Michael Bury, Chair

Matthew Micklich,
Vice-Chair

Harold Haugen

Scott Keller

Dane Lindholm

Robert Semeniuk

Zolton Yaremie



The 2024 Zone 5 growing season was similar to 2023 with a cool spring, then dry and smoky for the rest of it. The growing conditions earlier on were quite good until the few really hot and windy days in July took away the big crop, with most just hoping for an average crop.

In July, Lakeland College held the Alberta Pulse plot tour along with Alberta Grains. It was an informative day and more producers should take the time and come out. Again this year, Zone 5 APG Director Scott Keller organized a faba bean tour along with Advisor Dane Lindholm in New Norway.

Harvest is a good time to assess the problem areas in your pulse fields. If you suspect that you may have *Aphanomyces* in your field, call your agronomist and have it checked. Zone 5 is helping with the testing costs. Call the APG office for information.

I'm hoping everyone has a safe harvest and looking forward to seeing everyone at the Zone 5 fall meeting in Camrose on November 6.

- Michael Bury

APG Seeks Advisors in All Zones to Grow Pulse Industry

Pulse producers who want to grow the province's pulse industry while developing their own leadership skills are invited to let their names stand for election as an Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) advisor at their zone meeting this fall.

"Any interested pulse farmers are strongly encouraged to join the APG team," said APG Chair Shane Strydhorst. "I began as an advisor like most APG directors, and it has been a very rewarding experience. Becoming an advisor is a great way to get more involved in the industry. Each of our five zones has available positions and it's a good introduction to the organization, working on committees, and making things happen for Alberta pulse farmers."

A team of advisors leads extension activities specific to each of APG's five zones. Directors on APG's

provincial board often serve as advisors first.

Available positions in each zone are: Five in Zone 1; two in Zone 2; three in Zone 3; seven in Zone 4; and two in Zone 5.

Producers must have sold pulses and paid service charges since August 1, 2022 in order to be eligible as an advisor. Anyone interested in letting their name stand for an advisor position is asked to complete and submit a nomination form by Nov. 4, 2024. Each candidate must be endorsed by another pulse producer from their zone. The form is available on the homepage at www.albertapulse.com.

Dates for the fall zone meetings are on the outside back cover of this issue of *Pulse Crop News*.



APG directors and advisors had the opportunity to examine root rot samples at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge lab in March 2024.