

ZONE Reports



Zone chairs provided updates below on the challenge, highlight and a message to growers for their zone as of August. Provincial directors are recognized below with an asterisk.

Zone 1

Advisors:

- Jenny Rae Seward, Chair*
- Will Muller, Vice-Chair*
- John Kolk*
- Ryan Mercer
- David Pepneck
- Clayton Schmitt
- Greg Stamp
- Tjark Stikker

Zone highlight: Zone members attended the First Diagnostic Field Day hosted by Lethbridge Polytechnic and thoroughly enjoyed the diverse and informative interactive stations. We stopped at Farming Smarter afterwards for a tour of plots they are working on with pulse crops. This gave the zone hope for beneficial practises to come in the near future.

Challenge: Seeding began with little reserve soil moisture, but timely rainfalls in season stopped abruptly at the end of June. July was a month of hot temperatures, which decreased yield potential and quality/grading factors in crops.

Message to growers: *Aphanomyces* showed up in a large way in 2026.

Many farmers are planning to cut pulse acres in 2027 due to this, and depressed markets. A reminder to send soil samples in from *Aphanomyces*



APG Director and Zone 1 Chair Jenny Rae Seward, as well as Advisors Greg Stamp and Ryan Mercer attended the Farming Smarter crop walk and the Alberta Crop Diagnostic Day held in Lethbridge in July for the first time.

affected areas to quantify spore levels, and to use the rootrot.ca website to help plan acres and to reduce risk of severe infection. As a board member, I am relieved to see so many of our

levy dollars being spent on researching *Aphanomyces* and the root rot disease complex.

— JENNY RAE SEWARD | Zone 1 Chair



Presenter Keith Gabert spoke to growers at the Alberta Crop Diagnostic Day held at Western Crop Innovations in Lacombe at the end of July.

Zone 2

Advisors:

- Kelly Wheeler, Chair
- Joe Rowbottom, Vice-Chair*
- Allison Ammeter
- Kevin Auch*
- Gerry Good
- Peter Hoff
- Curtis Hoffmann
- Bill MacFarquhar
- Landon Sell

Zone highlight: A highlight was the Alberta Crop Diagnostic Day held at Western Crop Innovations in Lacombe. These events are a wonderful opportunity for farmers to see what's new and ask questions.

Challenge: A big challenge has been the crazy weather! We were so dry and hot in May, then so cold and wet with huge wind, hail and tornadoes! Then July goes by without any rain, while the north half of the province is at record wet.

Message to growers: We would like to remind growers of the Zone 2 AGM, which will be different this year as it will be held in conjunction with Alberta Grains and not at AgriTrade. More details can be found on the back cover of *Pulse Crop News*.

— KELLY WHEELER | Zone 2 Chair

Zone 3

Advisors:

- Brendin Serna, Chair
- Tateum Astasiewicz, Vice-Chair
- Chris Allam
- TK Mueller*
- Shane Strydhorst*
- Dan Visser
- Magnus von Rennenkampff
- 1 vacancy

Zone highlight: The zone highlight would be a joint crop tour with Gateway Research Organization (GRO) in the Westlock area. Attendees looked at pulses and how the wet conditions are setting up large amounts of disease and insects.

Challenge: The challenge has been the amount of rainfall within our zone and how it has been a challenge for spraying and will be a challenge heading into harvest!

Message to growers: We encourage growers to always ask questions on any problem or concern you have on your farm. We are looking ahead to a potential zone event in the winter

of 2026-27. Watch for more details to come!

— BRENDIN SERNA | Zone 3 Chair



APG Director TK Mueller was one of several members of Zone 3 who attended the Gateway Research Organization (GRO) pulse/canola tour in July that included a lupin processing plant tour, as well as research and agronomy updates for a variety of crops.

Zone 4

Advisors:

- Peter Konstapel, Chair*
- Samuel Meyer, Vice-Chair
- Jason Casselman
- Dwayne Krefting
- Amber Moskalyk
- Trenton Schoorlemmer
- Warren Sekulic
- Beverley Wieben*

Zone highlight: Zone highlight of the growing season so far is the 40th anniversary of SARDA ag research, which was celebrated at the start of August.

Challenge: The main challenge for our zone was the variable weather. Parts of the zone were drowning and others were praying for rain.

Message to growers: We would like to encourage all growers to attend the fall regional meetings. Come and see what APG is doing for farmers and, if interested, even become an advisor!

— PETER KONSTAPEL | Zone 4 Chair

Agronomist Kristina Polziehn presented on herbicide injury in front of plots of peas at the SARDA crop walk in Zone 4 last August.



Many members of APG's Zone 5 attended the late July crop walk at Konieczny Seeds in Mannville where APG Research Manager Dr. Jenn Walker spoke about faba beans.

Zone highlight: Faba beans look great this year!

Challenges: Rainfall has been a challenge in the northern portion of zone.

Message to growers: This year has highlighted the need for changes to Alberta's drainage policy. APG along with other groups have made great progress working with the government on some changes.

— MATT MICKLICH | Zone 5 Chair

Zone 5

Advisors:

- Matthew Micklich, Chair
- Ryan Yakemchuk, Vice-Chair
- Michael Bury*
- Scott Haugen
- Scott Keller*
- Dane Lindholm
- Robert Semeniuk*
- Don Shepert
- Zolton Yaremie

