



**MICHIGAN**  
CROP IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION™

# Michigan Seed Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
**The Official Seed Certifying Agency**

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## Foreign Material in Agriculture Commodities

BY LEE SILER

Foreign material in agricultural products can reduce market options and profitability. Foreign material can be defined as “All matter that remains in a commodity other than the commodity produced.” Foreign material can be of a natural source such as: pods, stems, weeds, stones, and dirt. It can also be introduced from harvesting and processing equipment and include items such as: metal shavings, equipment parts, glass, wood, and plastic; also, personal artifacts such as wedding bands, pens, and pencils can be unintentionally introduced into a final product. Potential hazards may exist whether a crop is intended for consumer use or as seed production.

To ensure a product is free of harmful foreign material, Michigan Crop Improvement Association institutes rigorous controls throughout our production line.

1. MCIA samples and inspects incoming loads of commodities to identify contamination before processing and packaging.
2. Production personnel begin each day inspecting equipment for integrity, any loose/broken parts, and cleanliness of the processing area.
3. Rare earth magnets are utilized at the endpoint of production to remove any ferrous metal material from the product.
4. Samples of the finished product are inspected to identify any issues and to verify control systems in place are effective.

Pictured below are potentially hazardous foreign material MCIA control systems have detected during the processing, included are: John Deere bolts and nuts, slugs of metal, snail shells, lead shot, wire fence, and numerous iron stones. The control systems at MCIA and the rare earth magnets have collected approximately 3 pounds of ferrous metal dust and objects during two harvest seasons. Efforts by producers to reduce hazardous foreign material are important. Adopting regular equipment checks and maintaining clean storage areas can provide a product free of hazardous foreign material. Michigan Crop Improvement Association will continue to provide services that support producers in the production of quality commodities for the end user.



## Foundation Wheat Sales

Foundation winter wheat sales were up slightly from last year with white wheat sales increasing and red wheat sales decreasing. The following is a summary of foundation seed sales.

### Red Wheat Units Sold

	2019	2020
Hopewell	24	17
MCIA Flipper	1340	1103
MCIA Harpoon	371	0
MCIA Red Devil	660	440
MCIA Red Dragon	1752	1360
MCIA Whale	944	782
MCIA Wharf	0	525
MCIA 2020	0	150
Starburst	389	370
Sunburst	1366	1090
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6846</b>	<b>6494</b>

### White Wheat Units Sold

	2019	2020
AC Mountain	1525	619
Jupiter	4985	1827
E 6012	420	120
MCIA Moonlight	0	272
MCIA Venus	226	0
Whitetail	3427	7779
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8917</b>	<b>10617</b>

# The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



I answer my ringing phone to hear Jim Palmer's voice on the other end reminding me that it's deadline time for the latest edition of the MCIA quarterly newsletter and, ahem, where's my President's Post? With certainty I can say that Jim's role on earth is to drive and motivate others.

The timing of this edition of the MCIA newsletter aligns well with the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving's name alone causes us to slow down and reflect on those things we are most thankful for.

For most of the year our livelihoods drive us to maintain a frantic pace. Planting, harvesting, tillage, spraying, scouting, fertilizing, storing, trucking, paying bills, ordering supplies and so on. We all know the drill. But seldom do we take the time to downshift and take a look around at all the people and all the things that allow us to do what we do so well.

My nuclear family comprised of my wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren are all foremost in my thoughts at this time of thanksgiving. I couldn't do what I do without their undying support. We're each other's rock in our daily foundation of being and I'm truly thankful for their patience and understanding.

When taking a very large step further back I reflect on this amazing juggernaut that is Michigan agriculture. Elevators, Co-ops, agri-businesses, seed companies, seed dealers and processors along with millers and end users are but a few of the strategic components of the Michigan dynamo. Maybe less obvious to individual farmers is the mechanism behind a great deal of what makes us successful, that being the Michigan land grant college – Michigan State University. Every farmer across the state benefits one way or another by the science, research, out-reach, and the consistent year-in, year-out effectiveness of MSU. And standing very discretely between the university and the state's seedsmen and farmers is Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). Michigan Crop Improvement has had a tremendous impact on Michigan as well as North American agri success. The subtle alliance between MSU and MCIA has allowed newly developed germplasm to quickly and efficiently spread across the state and regions far beyond our borders. The positive results are stunning when looked at in whole as well as individually. It's a result we can all be very thankful for. The staff at Michigan Crop Improvement stands second to none and I'm forever thankful to each of them and all they do to make Michigan agriculture a business I'm proud to be a part of.

## MCIA Performs New Enlist Bioassay

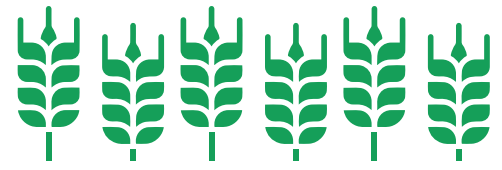
Bioassays are used routinely in the seed testing industry to evaluate the presence/efficacy of traits in seed. A bioassay is, in simple terms, the evaluation of the effect of a substance (chemical) on living tissue (germination seedlings). There are numerous types of bioassays including the evaluation of seed production fields after Roundup, Liberty, Enlist, or other chemicals have been applied. In the lab, a similar process occurs. Seeds are exposed to a chemical during germination and evaluated for the chemical activity. Skill is required to



understand and differentiate between chemical effects and normal disease or mechanical injury.

Approval to perform these analyses is a decision of the provider of each technology under their seed production guidelines. We are happy to announce that MCIA is now approved to perform trait testing for Enlist soybean seed production. MCIA also performs similar testing for

glyphosate and STS tolerance. One of the advantages of these tests is that they can be both qualitative and quantitative. This means that results can detect both the presence and also purity percentage of the tested trait.



## MCIA Licenses two new wheat lines from MSU

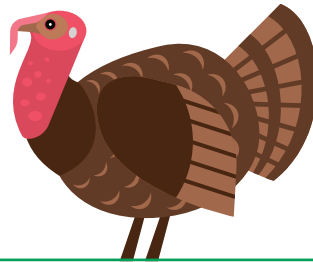
MCIA recently entered into agreements with MSU to license one soft red winter and one soft white winter wheat line. These were developed by Dr. Eric Olson at MSU and released in 2020. Both lines look promising and will be quickly multiplied so as to provide seed to the membership as soon as possible.

MI17R0357 is a new red wheat line with the highest one year yield total of any variety in the 2020 MSU yield trials. MI17R0357 is very short, non-bearded and stands excellent. MI17R0357 exhibits low DON scores, resists sprout and responds well to high management. Seed of MI17R0357 should be available as Foundation seed in fall of 2022.

MI17W0133 is a new white wheat line with excellent test weight and high yield potential. MI17W0133 is non-bearded and medium height variety with acceptable milling and baking scores. Foundation seed of MI17W0133 is scheduled to be available in the fall of 2022.

## Fun Fact

**Michigan ranks 10th in the nation for Turkey production. The average Michigan grown Turkey is 40 pounds which takes about 105# of Turkey feed to produce.**



## MCIA Annual Membership Meeting

The MCIA staff is planning for an “in-person” annual membership meeting on March 10, 2021 at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, MI. The meeting will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. followed by an educational session featuring special guest speakers:

- Dr. Brian Horgan, MSU AgBio Research Department Chair
- Dr. Francisco Gomez, MSU Dry Bean Breeding
- Dr. Eric Olson, MSU Wheat Breeding
- Chris Tiedje, MCIA
- Mike O’Connell, Jiffy Mix
- Toby Brown, Premier Seed Group

The meeting will conclude with the Honorary Membership Award and Lunch. There will be RUP and CCA credits available. Members will receive registration forms in late January 2021.



# Michigan Produced Edible Bean Seed

BY: CHRIS TIEDJE

Michigan has historically been a strong producer of commercial edible bean crops for navy, black, and kidney types. Production is primarily concentrated in Michigan's thumb and upper northeast. Both seed and commercial production have evolved over the years. Two of the biggest challenges for seed production include disease control (blight and anthracnose) and seed quality. Diseases are commonly understood to be a function of environment. Environment can also affect seed quality. However, it might be an inverse relationship between the two. A humid

environment during the growing season is more conducive for disease development, but a dry environment at harvest might be cause more mechanical damage.

The 2020 season was very favorable for Michigan edible bean seed production. Most beans were planted into good seedbeds with little compaction. The summer was generally warm and dry for little disease pressure and the Fall generally allowed timely harvest at manageable moistures. A total of thirty-six bean fields were inspected this year with blight being found in only one. Varieties and acreages are listed to the right.

VARIETY	ACRES
Alpena	127
Zorro	30
Zenith	607
Cayenne	20
Montcalm	464
Red Hawk	135
Red Cedar	75



## Custom Cleaning Services Offered

Do you have a seed or food product to be cleaned or packaged? Let our experienced staff assist you in adding value to your products with our custom cleaning and packaging



services. No matter the size of your project, seed or food, we have the expertise to handle your job. Our facility is a certified handler of organic products as well as being BRC Certified to handle food

products. We have the capabilities to mill, gravity, spiral and color sort most any product and can package and label your product in various bags and containers. Give us a call if you'd like to discuss a project we can help you with!

## New Website

Check out our newly revamped website at [www.michcrop.com](http://www.michcrop.com). The face lift has allowed us to include weather, grain quotes, blogs, interactive forms and more. We have added content and have hopefully made the site easier to use and navigate. Take a look today!

**VISIT [WWW.MIHCROP.COM](http://WWW.MIHCROP.COM)**



# Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



With harvest mostly behind us it seems like a good time to reflect on the year which

has so quickly passed by. In no way could the events of 2020 been predicted. The plague of 2020 dominated the headlines this year and changed the behaviors of most people on earth in one way or another. As a first year Manager at MCIA, I expected many challenges as I learned and grew into my new role here. I did not, however, factor in a 100 year pandemic which has forced many changes at MCIA as well as throughout the world. We implemented many preventa-

tive safety measures throughout the year including daily wellness checks, increased sanitizing of frequently touched objects and limited access to our facility from outside personnel. I am proud of the way our team members at MCIA have handled the changes and am thankful for the good fortune we have had regarding the health of our staff and families.

While I readily acknowledge we all have many things to be thankful for, I often find myself pondering the “simple things” I miss and clearly took for granted when times were “normal”. Some of these were common occurrences which didn’t cross my mind until they were gone. Let me list a few: the face to face meetings with customers, interaction with sales people and store employees, the ability to detect the smile of a person walking by, the smell of a charcoal grill cooking brats at a tailgate prior to a Saturday morning college football game, the interest-

ing stories my children would relate to my wife and I about their day at school, or people watching at a bustling restaurant with a 45 minute wait to get a table. There are many more examples which are too numerous to list.

The conclusion I have drawn from this reflection is that the “old timers” were right when they said take time to “smell the roses.” We often get so focused on what we are trying to accomplish each day, we forget to take time to appreciate the things which are so basic, yet, bring us immense pleasure and happiness. With that thought in mind I can honestly say the appreciation I have for the MCIA members, customers, staff and the directors has grown substantially over this past year. These are some of the “roses” in MY life. I encourage you to take time to reflect on the things you take for granted and take time to smell YOUR roses.

## Lab update by Joyce

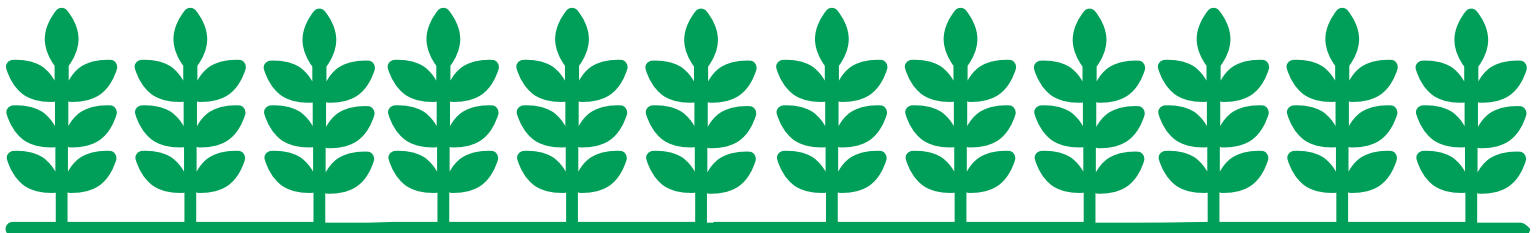
It was a very good year for wheat testing. Over 600 samples were processed in the lab with the average germination for red wheat of 98.14% and 97.99% for white wheat. Quality was very good with little disease pressure. This year’s bright seed allowed

very good identification of contrasting classes such as red wheat in white and vice versa.

We were able to purchase new lab equipment, including two new vacuum hand planters to replace the 30 year-old planter we had been using and

some new LED magnifier purity lamps which makes our jobs so much easier!

We are all ready for corn and bean season, early testing is showing favorable results. We’re looking forward to servicing all your seed testing needs this winter!





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## Contact Us

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## Let's get social!

Find us on Facebook at:

**Michigan Crop Improvement  
Association**

## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 24 2020 - Jan. 4 2021**

Holiday Break

*Office Closed*

**Feb. 15, 2021**

Early Foundation Seed Orders Due

*MCIA Office*

**March 10, 2021**

MCIA Annual Membership Meeting

*Okemos, MI*