



MICHIGAN
CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION™

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MCIA Soybean Testing

BY CHRIS TIEDJE

The MCIA seed lab experienced record seed testing, due to the large volume of soybean seed stored on-farm and in retail outlets from unplanted acres in 2019. Test results have been mixed and often hard to interpret. Some samples have tested good with high warm and cold germinations. Some samples have tested poor with low warm and cold germinations. Decisions for these are straight forward. But what do you do with seed which has a warm germination of 90 percent and a cold germination (vigor) of 20 percent? How is this even possible? That is a question which is hard to address. One way to answer it is to understand the test. The warm germination test is intended to show the seeds ability to produce a normal plant. This means that the seed is able to sprout, overcome seedling diseases, and produce a plant with sufficient roots. Seeds are germinated at the ideal temperature of 77.8 degrees with nothing but water. This is a bit different than a Cold Test. In a Cold Test seeds are placed in cold (50 degrees) high moisture soil for a duration of 7 days prior to an additional 5 to 7 days in ideal growing conditions. One notable difference in the two tests relates to imbibition – the first step of germination. In the Warm Germ imbibition occurs at 77.8 degrees, while 50 degrees in the Cold Test. This can have advantages and disadvantages for each seed lot depending on the quality of the seed. At times the higher temperatures are more conducive for other fungi or bacteria to grow, reproduce and infect the seedling before the seed has an opportunity to germinate so the cold test results may be higher than the warm results. But with carry over seed it is more a function of seed energy, true vigor. Seeds may show potential to “sprout” in the Warm Germ test, but may not have the energy to endure the cold temperature stress in high moisture soil.

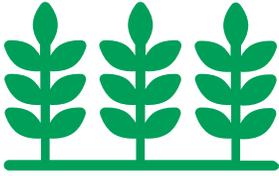


Cold Test showing uneven weak low vigor seed on left and strong high vigor seed on the right.

There is also another component to the evaluations – disease vs. mechanical injury. The embryo of a soybean seed is on the outer surface of the seed, so it is prone to injury while it is harvested and handled from plant to seed bag. The root is the most common target. If seed is handled too dry, it will be prone to cracking, separating the root growing point from the rest of the seed. If a large enough portion of the root (radicle) remains, it will have sufficient energy to produce secondary roots

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What's New



Get In Your Orders for Whitetail Foundation Wheat Seed!

Whitetail soft white winter wheat was the top yielding white wheat line in the MSU Wheat Performance Trials for the past three seasons. Whitetail is a short variety with very low DON scores. Whitetail also exhibits excellent milling and baking scores. Foundation Seed of Whitetail is in production and ample supply is expected for fall 2020 planting. A royalty of \$1.00/50# will be collected on certified seed sold.



Adams and Coho Coming Soon

Adams, a new high yielding black bean variety from the MSU Dry Bean Breeding Program and Coho, an excellent new Light Red Kidney Bean variety are in the process of being released by MSU. MCIA is in negotiations to license these two varieties. Seed increases will take place in 2020 in Idaho and a significant amount of Foundation Seed should be available for planting in 2021. More information on these two lines coming soon!

The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



Before I launch into the topic I want to cover in this edition of the MCIA newsletter, I just want to say what an honor it is to be back in the president's chair after having done a few other things since I've last occupied this chair quite a few years ago (such as serving on the executive committee of the Michigan Wheat Program and also being a director of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) for 5 years). With some broader exposure to back me, I can say with confidence, the whole MCIA experience is unparalleled and highly recommended for

any seedsperson to become engaged in.

When I first got involved in the seed production/certification business there was this guy across the parking lot from the foundation seed building who was just getting his start as the new manager of MCIA – that being Randy Judd. Little did I know at the time that Randy's and my futures would become so closely associated in the years to come.

My first recollection of Randy was him being “that guy” who called the shots and ran this mysterious business of seed production and certification. I tossed my name in the hat for board member a few times when I first started my seed business in the late 1980's and was soundly trounced by more established guys (a humbling experience). But Randy always made the effort to thank me for my interest and to try again next time. I ran for board member a third time and got elected because there was no one running against me and that was when I began to know and understand Randy and the job he was tasked to do... which he did so very well for a good many years.

Fiscal responsibility was an area Randy excelled in and I always marveled at his accounting acumen and his ability to explain the financial status of the association – whether in a tight knit board meeting or at an annual meeting in a hall filled with members and keen businessmen. Randy always had it down pat and could field questions like Superman catching speeding bullets and outrunning steaming locomotives.

On several occasions in the past I had the opportunity to attend meetings out of state such as AOSCA and ASTA with MCIA staff and, of course, Randy. Everyone who knows Randy knows that he's a low-key guy and not likely to cause a stir when he walks into the room. But what always caught my eye when attending these meetings was that Randy was never alone. He was always engaged in conversation with someone or a group of folks and you could always tell that the people he was talking to enjoyed being with him and that they respected Randy both as a person as well as being manager of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. Randy worked hard to earn that respect and even harder to maintain it for the duration of his career as manager of MCIA. And it's with my greatest respect that I thank Randy for his years of service to the MCIA staff and membership and that he and Marsha enjoy the well deserved life they've both earned after having given so much to all of us.

Thank you Randy and God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Schmidt".

Meet Alan Moore, newly elected to MCI Board of Directors for the Central Region

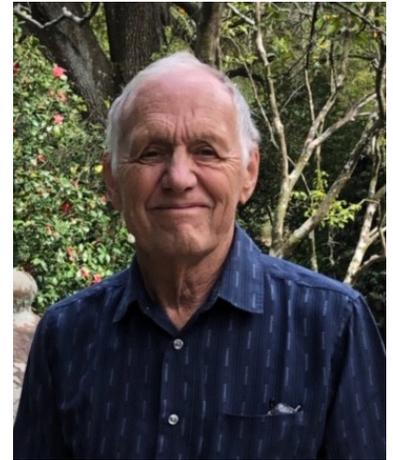
Alan is a proud fifth generation farmer and third generation seedsman, whom farms approximately 2500 acres of certified corn, soybean, and wheeler rye and triticale seed in Elsie, Michigan on the same ground the Moore family homesteaded in 1857.

Alan's grandfather, George Moore, started in the seed industry growing certified small grains and navy beans in 1937. In 1962, Alan's father Robert, planted the first 15 acres of seed corn and the business quickly expanded. In 1965, the Moore family joined with six other Michigan seed farms to create Great Lakes Hybrids, located in Ovid Michigan. In 1972, Alan returned to his family farm after graduating from Michigan State University, where he married his wife Phyllis (Dershem) and was able to continue to grow and expand Moore's Seed Farm through innovative partnerships and practices in and around the farm.

For years, Alan and his wife Phyllis managed the farm while raising their four children, Suzette, Ben, Becki,

and Dana. In 1998, their son Ben graduated from Michigan State University and joined the partnership. Continuing his families entrepreneurial spirit, in 2009 Moore Seed Farm joined six other seed farms to form Premier Seed Group.

PSG has grown to 9 members with facilities spanning Nebraska to Michigan, offering customers quality seeds, along with state of the art technology and full service customer support. Alan is excited to use his past experience and knowledge of the seed industry to move the organization forward. Congratulations Alan!



2020 MCI Scholarships Awarded

Each year, the Michigan Crop Improvement Association awards up to ten \$2,000 scholarships to college students who are enrolled in either Crop and Soil Sciences or the Institute of Agricultural Technology at Michigan State University. If recipients make acceptable academic progress, these scholarships may be renewable. These scholarships help ensure a steady stream of competent and well trained future leaders and workers in the ag-industry. Congratulations to the 2020/2021 recipients:

- Madison Bank, Carleton City, MI (*Junior*)
- Josh Deradoorian, Milford, MI (*Senior*)
- Rachel Drobnak, Olmsted Township, OH (*Sophomore*)
- Carolina Freitas, Patos de Minas-Minas Gerais, Brazil (*Sophomore*)
- DJ Hisler, Charlotte, MI (*Senior*)
- Cam Langmaack, Charlotte, MI (*Senior*)
- Luke Retford, Owendale, MI (*Senior*)
- Brice Walther, Schoolcraft, MI (*Sophomore*)
- Claudia Walz, Manchester, MI (*Junior*)
- Jenna Wolfe, Ashley, MI (*Senior*)

News from the Seed Lab: Germination Results

We received many requests this season for cold germinations to be performed on soybean seed along with a warm germination. Corn, soybean and miscellaneous beans in general are all planted directly in soil as a cold test. The corn is rolled in a wet towel with soil covering the seed, then placed in a metal box inside a cart. Soybean as well as kidney, navy and black beans are planted in plastic boxes with soil above and below the seed. The turn-around time with a cold germination of corn and soybean is 2 weeks. The seed is planted and placed into the cold germination room for one week, then moved into the warm germination room for another week. Dry edible beans go into the cold room for 3 days and moved to the warm room for an additional 7 days. Wheat,

rye, oats and barley (new crop) are placed into the cold room for 5 days to break dormancy, then moved into the warm room for a week. If the seed is over a year old, we generally plant it directly into the warm germinator for 7 days.

Different crops will have different planting times. Grass for example may have components that can take up to 30 days to germinate. This holds true for any grass blend with a blue-grass seed as one of the components.

Many customers call and ask for final results before the cold testing is complete, not realizing the length of time required to complete the test. If you have an online account with us, you may promptly find results online. If you do not have an online account, phone the office and we can easily set one up for you.

and sustain a normal plant. Seedling diseases can be similar. Diseases can infect a seedling and produce a varied level of response from slight to severe. One might also think that if the seed is treated that it would protect it from seedling diseases. This may be true at initial treatment, but some seed treatments will have a tendency to break down over time and lose their effectiveness.

The final component – if seed is alive, it has the potential to die. Soybeans, due to their physiological composition of high oil and protein will deteriorate quicker than other crops such as wheat or corn, which have a high starch content.

Carry over soybean planting considerations:

1. It is hard to compare new crop to carry over seed. The average cold germination on new crop is 5 to 10 percent lower than the warm germination. This year, carry over seed tested 32 percent lower than the warm germination. Cold tests also showed some viable seedlings but the height was 2 inches tall vs. the 6 inch normal for strong vigor seed (see picture above).
2. It is hard to predict the weather. Carry over soybeans planted before a heavy rain, creating saturated soil conditions, will respond similar to as if they were planted in cold conditions.
3. If seed planting population is increased to compensate for quality, it is encouraged to consider both the warm

and cold germination percentages. Population should be hedged to the higher than lower.

4. Plant carry over seed in as close to ideal conditions as possible – 78 degrees with adequate moisture.
5. It is impossible to have a lab test reflect every field planting condition which might occur. Each lab test is only a snapshot of how the seed performs at one set criteria.

Summer and Fall Job Opportunities

Are you looking for a part-time job? Michigan Crop Improvement currently is accepting applications for summer and fall field inspectors. For those interested in farming and crop production, this is a nice opportunity to learn a new perspective - seed production. How do you know if you are qualified? Current inspectors come from a diverse background of teachers, farmers, Ag. industry, and students. Some are retired from these positions. The position offers the benefits of being outside, general exercise - walking, visiting with farmers, and a flexible schedule. For some agriculture is in their blood. This position offers an opportunity to learn a new area in agriculture while building on your past experience. If you have the willingness to learn, comfortable talking to farmers, pay attention to detail, and can manage our own schedule, we would be interested to talk to you. We currently have positions available in central Michigan, the thumb, and Southwest Michigan. Inspectors are paid an hourly wage, plus mileage. Please contact Chris Tiedje at 517/332-3546 if you are interested.

Greg Varner Receives MCIA Honorary Membership Award

Greg Varner, retired Research Director for the Michigan Dry Edible Bean Production Research Advisory Board, was awarded the 2019 MCIA Honorary Membership Award. Greg worked at MCIA as a field inspector in 1974 and 1975. He earned a B.S. in Agri-Science Education in 1976 and a Mas-

ters in Crop Science in 1979, both from MSU. Greg had a long successful career in the dry bean industry and worked closely with the seed industry on many projects including variety release, quality evaluation and direct harvesting techniques. He currently lives in Gratiot County with his wife Joan. His service to the Michigan Dry Bean Industry has been outstanding which makes him truly deserving of the MCIA Honorary Membership. Congratulations Greg!



Bill Irrer Past President

Bill Irrer of Fowler, Michigan recently completed his 12th year as a director (term-limited) finishing his final four years as President of the MCIA Board of Directors. We would like to thank Bill for his outstanding leadership and direction over the past twelve years. One important attribute which made Bill such a tremendous Board Member was his ability to separate his personal interests from what was best for the association. Bill took his role as President serious and always brought excellent perspective to meetings and thoroughly considered all sides when making important decisions. A big thank you to Bill for his commitment and dedication to MCIA!

Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



With the outbreak of the Covid-19 Virus, all our lives have probably been changed in one way or the other forever. “Social distancing”, a phrase I first heard in the first week of March, has become a common theme in daily life. What does this mean for the average American citizen? Will we end the time tested tradition of greeting one another by shaking hands?

Will we no longer pack ourselves in crowded arenas to cheer on our favorite sports team? Will high density populations decide to migrate out of the cities and into the countryside to achieve maximum social distancing? These are just a few of the questions we will face in the upcoming months. Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos recently sent a newsletter to his

shareholders. In his letter he quoted Dr. Suess who left us another statement to ponder, it was this: “When something bad happens you have three choices. You can either let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you.” What will we do? With the “social distancing” rules taking effect, we have been compelled to do tasks in new ways. This has allowed us to identify and correct inefficiencies, improve communication among our staff using new tools, and become trained in areas other than our specialties all while keeping the health and safety of others a top priority. I think when the dust settles and things return to the new normal, we will have transformed our experience during these tragic times to help us become a more resilient, responsive, and flexible organization. How will you strengthen yourself or your organization? Take care of yourselves and best wishes for a safe and profitable growing season.

MCIA Seed Plant and the Coronavirus

MCIA will remain open for business during the Covid-19 pandemic as we are an essential business under the Governor's Executive Order. To ensure the safety of our members, customers, employees and their families we have adopted additional daily procedures to our business operations in response to the Covid-19. In addition to following all CDC guidelines, MCIA employees are required to answer a series of health questions and record temperatures before reporting to work each day. MCIA has designated separate entrances for employees and customers; committed two intervals during the day to sanitize common surface areas such as door handles, light switches, faucets, tables etc. and are encouraging employees, who are able, to work from home. Business

hours will remain, 7:30am to 4:00pm weekdays. We encourage you to call ahead before coming to MCIA, enabling us to prepare for loading or unloading your commodities thus minimizing your time at our facility and limiting human to human contact. The personal interaction with customers is very important and enjoyable for our staff and we hope to be back to a more normal routine by fall!

With regards to our recertification audits, we are currently on schedule with the BRCGS Food Safety audit to take place in June. Our Organic recertification audit has been delayed slightly and is tentatively scheduled to be completed in June as well.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and enjoyable planting season.

MCIA Board Re-Appoints Industry and MSU Representative

The MCIA Board of Directors recently re-appointed Paul Varner as MCIA Industry representative and Dr. Doug Buhler as MSU representative on the MCIA Board. The MCIA Board of Directors, MCIA membership and staff are fortunate to have the presence of these two gentlemen at the table providing leadership and guidance. Both Paul and Doug have served on the MCIA BOD as appointed members since 2005.

Paul works as Sales Manager for Treasure Valley Seed Company and Doug is the Director of AgBioResearch at Michigan State University. Thank you to Paul and Doug for recognizing the need for input from all facets of the Michigan agriculture industry to make MCIA a vibrant seed organization.

Election of MCIA Directors

The 2020 Election of Directors was accomplished through mail in ballots. The following members were elected to the MCIA board:

- **Jeff Dreher** of Palms, (Upper Thumb Region) was re-elected for another three year term.
- **Alan Moore** of Elsie, (Central Region) newly elected to a three year term. We appreciate the willingness of these members to give of their time to help support MCIA.



Michigan Crop Improvement Association
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Fun Fact

The first soda pop made in the U.S. was Vernor's Ginger Ale, created in Detroit, Michigan in 1866 by James Vernor. James Vernor, who was also Michigan's first licensed pharmacist, sold the drink in his drug store for 30 years before opening a factory to produce it on a larger scale. Michigan still accounts for 80% of Vernor's total sales volume.

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Let's get social!

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Michigan Crop Improvement Association

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
May 25	Memorial Day	Office Closed
June 1	Small Grains Application Due	MCIA Office
June 21-24	AOSCA Annual Meeting	Seattle, WA (Cancelled)
June 15-18	AOSA/SCST/ISTA Annual Meeting	Indianapolis, IN (Cancelled)
July 3	Independence Day Holiday	Office Closed
August 15	Soybean & Dry Bean Applications Due	MCIA Office
August 15	Final Orders for Wheat Seed Stock Due	MCIA Office