



Michigan Seed Bulletin

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The Official Seed Certifying Agency

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A Time and a Place for Everything

CHRIS TIEDJE

We all know the saying, “There is a time and a place for everything.” A time to plant, a time to rest, a time to repair, a time to build, a time to harvest For MCIA it might be: A time to condition seed, a time to inspect seed, a time to test seed. Varieties, genetics, purity, and quality have always been a focus for MCIA but applications seem to have changed over the years. Following is a list of acreages for crops/inspections MCIA has inspected in their prime.

Wheat	16,186
Oats	8,700
Barley	1,206
Rye	2,384
Soybeans	13,806
Navy Beans	11,100
Kidney Beans	3,212
Corn	105,358
QA	28,335
IP/Non-GMO	38,303

Some of these seed acreages may seem small compared to some modern farms but are a reflection of commercial acreages within the state. Perhaps the most surprising item is the IP/Non-GMO acres as a means to segregate food grade soybeans, when Round up Ready soybeans were first market.

We have all witnessed consolidation, technological advances, and climate change. Perhaps the biggest challenge has been weather patterns in recent years. It has certainly made



the wheat harvest challenging this year. With challenging conditions, the only way to know what you have, is to test. Seed can look good or bad, but the only way to truly know, is to test. Seed wheat quality is mixed this year. Initial germinations have been good but sporadic rain and thunderstorms at harvest are never good.

Variety performance is similar. The only way to know which variety is best for you is to test – to see how it ranks compared to others. The challenge is that Mother Nature is a moving target. The top variety one year may be a good indication of genetic potential but not necessarily superior in all conditions. This may be “preaching to the choir” but is a reminder that MCIA is here for you – for testing - for varieties.

The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



Summer Greetings to All!

Part of my job, as your Board President, is to keep you informed of the goings on within the Board. After 18 years of serving as the MSU representative, Dr. Doug Buhler, has resigned from the MCIA BOD. Doug's gentle manner, vast breadth of MSU knowledge, significant depth of seed industry understanding and just an all-round fun guy to have at the table, will truly be missed. Doug – from the bottom of our MCIA hearts, we thank you for everything and wish you well in your future adventures.

While Dr. Buhler moves onward, I'd like to introduce Dr. George Smith, Director of AgBioResearch and Senior Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Smith has graciously accepted the role of MSU representative on the MCIA Board of Direc-

tors replacing Dr. Buhler. A little background is in order... Dr. Smith joined the faculty at MSU in 1997. While his research efforts at MSU have previously focused primarily on dairy cattle, Dr. Smith is well acquainted with row crop and small grain agriculture. Dr. Smith hails from northern Idaho where he was raised on a family farm as close to Canada as one can get without being Canadian. His degrees in animal science from the University of Idaho, master's and doctoral degrees in animal science from the University of Missouri-Columbia will add new, diverse input to the Board. Welcome Dr. George Smith to the MCIA Board Of Directors.

While I'm on the subject of your MCIA Board Of Directors, I'd like to visit the make-up and composition of the seats around the table. The By-Laws of the Association require that a 9-member board represent the Association and its membership. In addition to the appointed MSU representative, Dr. George Smith, the Board is also served by both an industry representative and a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development representative (Ex-Officio) as well as 6 grower members.

Our industry representative is Jeff Martis who is the manager of Star of the West's Richville location. As our industry rep, Jeff provides input and guidance to the Board with keen insight regarding industry perception of cereal grain and dry bean commodities being delivered vs. what the industry expects. This is a vital role to make sure MCIA is meeting end user needs/demands.

Our MDARD Representative is Mike Philip who is a bureau director at MDARD. Mike holds a master's degree in entomology and brings a unique perspective to the Board. Besides ensuring that what the MCIA Board decides to do is justifiable by MDARD standards, Mike also oversees the effort within MDARD to ensure that the seeds being sold and distributed within the State of Michigan meet, at least, the minimum quality standards as defined by the seed law.

And of course, there's the rest of us: 6 farmers from across the State, helping make decisions and providing direction that, hopefully, benefits the membership of the Association. Farmer directors are elected to serve a 3-year term representing the districts in which we live and farm. Each year, 2 of your directors are up for re-election or we've been termed out and a new candidate to serve on the BOD representing our district is put forward. Directors can serve on the BOD 3 consecutive, 3-year terms.

The beauty of this arrangement is that the MSU, MDARD and Industry Representative each serve at the pleasure of the BOD and provide a continuum of knowledge and expertise while us farmer directors come and go. If learning more about how the seed industry works and if you're interested in serving on the Board in the future, reach out to any of us to find out more.

Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



MCIA Barracuda (bearded) on the left next to a destroyed non-bearded line.

Oh Deer!

One of the most common conversations I have with people today, no matter the setting, is the overpopulation of the deer herd. Whether the graceful creatures are destroying Grandma's garden, getting hit by cars in the road, or devouring crops in farmers' fields, everyone seems to agree, there are just too many deer. It seems the problem is becoming bigger each year.

The DNR recognizes the deer are overpopulated but has shown very little resolve to rectify the situation. Some of their solutions such as expanding the early hunting seasons and allowing for additional tags to be purchased, won't effectively incentivize hunters to shoot more deer. This will only force the deer to become nocturnal earlier than usual and possibly alter the time of year the hunters bag their deer. Neither of those solutions will have much effect on deer population. I have some good suggestions which I believe would be much more effective.

Here it goes: Mandate hunters must harvest two does prior to receiving a buck tag; issue free doe permits to all hunters; and probably the best solution (which will never get any traction) placing cash bounties on the deer. I don't anticipate my suggestions will garner much support so until Mother Nature decides there are too many deer, folks will need to continue to use alternative methods to protect their property and crops. A tough task indeed.

Why am I talking about deer management in a "MCIA Managers Minute" you might ask? Well walking wheat plots last month I came across an interesting phenomenon. I had always heard wheat varieties with awns (beards) dissuaded deer from walking/eating in those fields. I never really knew if it was a real "thing" or just an old "wives' tale". Well, after walking hundreds of plots some with awns and some without, I can say with certainty I am convinced there

is really something to the theory. The plots the deer laid, played and ate in, were almost exclusively non-awned varieties, while almost zero damage was detected in the bearded lines.

If you or your seed customer have deer issues, I hope this practical insight will help steer you towards bearded varieties of wheat. My observations indicate that using this strategy should help growers protect their crops until broader solutions to overpopulation are determined. Good Luck!

Fun Fact

Kalamazoo, MI was the original home of Gibson Guitar, and a budget model produced in the '60s and '70s was called the Kalamazoo.



Former Manager of MCIA receives AOSCA's highest honor

On June 17, 2024 in Miramar Beach, Florida, Randel Judd, retired MCIA Manager, was awarded the AOSCA Honorary Membership Award. Randy was presented the award by President Billy Skaggs from Georgia Crop Improvement Association and Past President Andrew Altishin. This award is in recognition of dedicated service and commitment to AOSCA's mission and principles and is the highest honor given to an AOSCA member. Randy was joined at the ceremony by his wife Marsha.



AOSCA President Billy Skaggs, Georgia Crop Improvement Assn. presents Randy Judd with the AOSCA Honorary Member Award.

Notes from the Lab

LAUREN BOGI

Grain season in the lab has been steady the past few weeks. The weather has been cooperative, so producers have been able to get their crop harvested, processed, and sent into the lab for testing. However, the lingering rain and cloudy weather in some areas of Michigan have been troublesome for some growers. The aftereffects of the recent rain have been showing some deterioration in germination and Tetrazolium test (TZ) results.

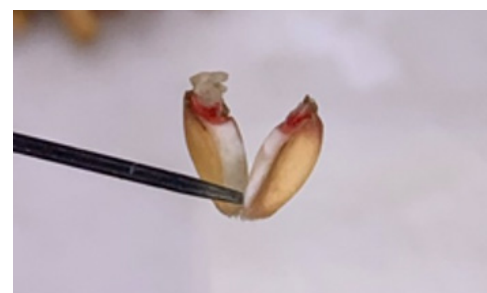
The total average germination across all small grains (barley, oats, rye, triticale, and both treated and untreated red and white wheat) is 96% thus far. Recently however, we have had some germination tests that have not passed Certification standards. There is no doubt that with the addition of seed treatment those lots would pass. We have seen a considerable amount of dead seed as well as Fusarium mold in these samples. In a handful of seed lots



Seed showing dead tissue, no staining at all (left) compared to a fully respiring embryo (right).

we have noticed scab (looks like pink covering on the seed) lightly scattered in samples while doing purities.

We have also seen some sprouting in samples while doing TZ tests. The TZ test is a quick 24-hour turnaround test. The seeds are soaked in water (to start the imbibition process), we then cut the embryo so we can later evaluate the root / shoot axis staining of that seed, once cut the seeds are soaked in a TZ chemical solution. If the root or shoot axis is



Seed showing sprouting damage. The shoot is stained white (dead), while the root axis is respiring and growing. It is unclear if this seed will produce a normal crop. It could germinate, but have some abnormalities and die later in the germination process once planted.

stained red, that means that the seed is respiring or living. If anywhere along the axis there is white, that tissue is dead – indicating the seed will not grow. If you are interested in knowing if your seed has started to sprout, a TZ is the best way to assess the damage. If you have any questions at all, reach out!

As reported in the May newsletter, MCIA is utilizing a new reporting system for field inspections this year. Rather than use paper forms, inspection information was entered electronically, and inspectors reported their findings on a custom phone app in the field. This information was used to generate a PDF report that was either emailed directly to all parties or sent by USPS mail. There was a learning curve involved for both inspectors and customers, but I am pleased to say that so far it has been an overall success. We have completed inspections on small grains and soybean blossoms with minimum issues. The new system reduced the amount of paperwork in the office and eliminated redundancies when it came to record keeping. It also streamlined the reporting process for inspectors and customers. Inspectors are currently in the field using this system for corn inspections, and it is working great, as customers have easy access to their inspection results instantly.

updated inspection application. We are still accepting the paper application used in the past; however, a new application form has been posted on our website under the Resources tab > Forms > Field Inspection Application – Excel Download. The Excel file can be downloaded and filled out on your computer. It asks for the same information as the paper application but makes entering your field and crop information into our system a much smoother process back at the office. Once all your information is entered in the file, you can type your signature into the bottom cell, save the file, and email it to the office. Some tips when filling out the application, if you hover

your cursor over a cell with a red triangle in the corner, a note will appear with tips on how to input information in that column. Also, the inspection fee will be automatically calculated based on the crop, acres, and inspection class entered. There are also tabs for you to review previous crop restrictions for certified seed and the field inspection agreement at the bottom of the page. Field maps can be included in your email in any format, as long as either township and two crossroads or GPS coordinates are included. If you have any questions about the new reporting system or application for field inspection, please do not hesitate to contact us.

2024 Small Grain Inspection ▼ EDIT APP

Search your data... 🔍 📶 📄 190 records 🗑️ CLEAR ALL FILTERS SAVE VIEW REFERENCE FILES

QUICK FILTERS

▼ Record Updated

- ☒ All
- ☐ Today
- ☐ Yesterday
- ☐ Last 7 days
- ☐ Last 30 days
- ☐ This Month
- ☐ Last Month
- ☐ Specific Range

Start date... 📅 End date... 📅

From To

▼ Status

- ☐ Incomplete
- ☒ Complete

► Assignment

Find address or place 🔍

Wisconsin Michigan Illinois Indiana

Madison Milwaukee Chicago Grand Rapids Lansing Detroit

Lake Michigan

Earthstar Geographics | Province of Ontario, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, TIPS, USFWS

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Dr. George Smith Appointed to MCIA Board of Directors as MSU Representative

Dr. George Smith accepted his appointment to the MCIA Board of Directors as the MSU Representative on July 12, 2024. Dr. Smith currently serves as the AgBioResearch Director and is responsible for strategic

direction and administrative oversight for the organization, supporting over 300 MSU scientists. Dr. Smith hails from Idaho, and earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Smith replaces Dr. Doug Buhler who faithfully served on the MCIA Board for nearly twenty years! A great big thanks to both Dr. Smith and Dr Buhler!



Dr. Smith

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Let's get social!

Find us on Facebook at:

**Michigan Crop Improvement
Association**

Calendar of Events 2024

August 15

Soybean and Dry Bean Applications Due
Final Orders for Wheat Seed Stock Due

MCIA Office

September 2

Labor Day

MCIA Offices Closed

November 29

Wheat Royalties Due

MCIA Office