



MICHIGAN
CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION™

Michigan Seed Bulletin

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Every Year is Different

TOM SILER

As most readers know, no two years in Michigan agriculture are ever the same. Each season brings a new set of challenges—unpredictable weather, shifting markets, and evolving management decisions. The 2025 growing season has been no exception, and Michigan's seed industry has certainly felt the effects.

The fall of 2024 provided a timely opportunity for early planting of small grains. Of the 198 small grain fields inspected by MCIA this year, about one-third were planted before October. However, dry conditions in some regions led to delayed emergence. A cool, sluggish spring further slowed green-up and early development across many areas. Fortunately, as summer temperatures arrived, most small grain fields were able to catch up. Disease pressure has remained relatively light this year, with only trace levels of head scab and glume blotch reported by inspectors.

Seed corn and soybean producers across the state also began the season with early planting windows. But much like small grains, many fields experienced a slow start due to cool weather. Then, a series of rain events in May and early June interrupted progress, pushing some planting dates later than expected. The result is a wide range of maturities across seed fields, which may

pose challenges for harvest planning and seed quality management later in the season.

While not new to seed growers, some challenges have become more severe this year—particularly labor availability and outside contamination. Several producers have expressed concern about the limited number of workers available for key tasks like rouging and detasseling. At the same time, MCIA inspectors have encountered more cases of crop contamination than usual, often traced back to unclear fertilizer blends or cover crop mixtures containing unintended species. These incidents underscore the importance of clear communication with suppliers and careful product selection—especially when seed purity is on the line.

As we move into the second half of the 2025 growing season, Michigan seed producers continue to demonstrate their resilience. Each year brings its own set of conditions to navigate, and this one has been no different—from weather delays to labor shortages and purity concerns. Still, with careful management and continued collaboration, Michigan's seed industry remains well-positioned to meet these challenges head-on. As always, MCIA is here to assist in your seed production and help turn an unpredictable season into a successful one.

The President's Post

BY JEFF MARTUS, MCIA PRESIDENT



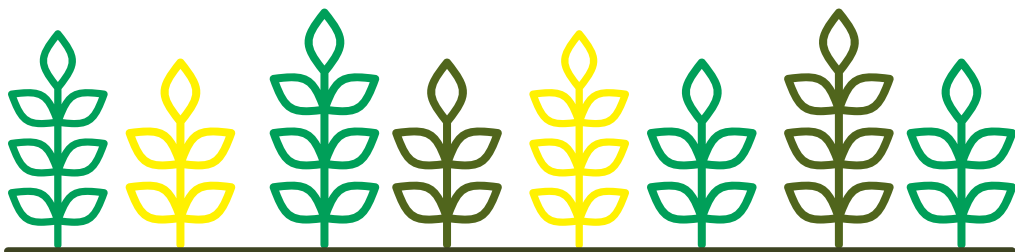
By now, the 2025 winter wheat crop is out of the field and in the bin, but this year's wheat harvest did not come without challenges. Weather conditions throughout July put the crop at risk, especially in the areas around the thumb. At one point rain delayed harvest and chased combines out of the field 6 of 7 days. The lone dry day? Still overcast with a heavy fog and mist. One or two more days of this weather might have spelled disaster. Fortunately,

when conditions finally improved growers and elevators moved fast, packing five days of harvest into three. Elevator receipts verified this as near record daily volumes were recorded. It was an impressive effort across the board.

Yields appear to be running about 10-15 bushels above average across the state. An excellent fall for early planting, a cooler April and May with adequate moisture set the wheat up nicely for some "best wheat I have ever grown" comments from growers. In my neighborhood test weight seemed to fall 2-3 lbs below normal, likely due to the intense heat in mid to late June which shut the plants down stopping that extra grain fill. Once the MSU yield trials are released, I expect to see strong performances from several MCIA varieties. These will be excellent options to consider for your 2026 wheat seed needs.

Dry beans are shaping up to be in the fair to good category statewide. Excessive rainfall has caused some trouble in pockets, but overall the crop potential remains strong. White mold is always a concern particularly in the healthy dense canopies, but where beans are nice, growers are treating to protect their investment. Early signs are promising, and in my next post I expect to be highlighting the new MCIA - MSU bean releases as they look really good so far.

As your President, I'd like to recognize the efforts of all the Michigan seed growers who produce and provide a quality seed product to the Michigan farmers every year. Your work matters, not just to the growers who plant your seed, but to the entire supply chain that relies on the Michigan grown quality. Enjoy the last month and a half of summer and have a safe and bountiful fall harvest!



MSU Wheat Variety Trials

Please visit our website at www.michcrop.com to view the 2025 MSU wheat variety trials. This is an excellent source of information to help you choose your Fall wheat seed varieties.

Remember to look at the multi-year averages to get a better picture of how a line performs over time.

MCIA Seed Lab Obtains Officially Recognized Foreign Seed Testing Lab Status

As of May 15, 2025, Michigan Crop Improvement is now an Official Recognized Foreign Seed Testing Laboratory through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

For this certification, we conduct seed testing according to the Canadian Methods and Procedures (Canadian M&P) and issue a lab report of analysis that meets the CFIA standards. With our reports, an accredited grader can establish a Canadian pedigreed grade name for seed lots intended for marketing in Canada. No additional testing is required once the seed enters Canada, helping you save time and money on both shipping and testing.

If your company, or any others you work with, could benefit from this added service at our seed lab, we are eager to explore how we can work together.

2025 AGRO EXPO
connect. discover. innovate.

MCIA to attend AgroExpo August 12th and 13th

Attending the AgroExpo in St. Johns on August 12 or 13? Stop by booth E907A to visit the MCIA display. We will have seed variety information, cold drinks and some MCIA goodies to share with you. Hope to see you there!

AgroExpo is the state's largest agricultural trade show featuring more than 160 exhibitors, equipment demonstrations and speakers. Join other farmers Aug. 12 & 13 at 5605 Findlay Rd., St. Johns, MI to bring your operation to the next level.

Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



Eyes in the Field

If you have ever grown, sold or planted Certified or Quality Assured seed from Michigan you have benefitted from an unsung hero in the seed business, the MCIA field inspector. Long before harvest, and prior to your seed bag being tagged, our inspectors are out walking fields across Michigan. For our inspectors it means early mornings and late evenings, wet feet, hot afternoons in the blazing sun

and many miles driven to get the job done. It's not the most glamorous or highest paying job, but it is vital to the certification process, ensuring each field meets the high standards of purity, isolation and quality which help define certified seed.

In a way it's like detective work. Inspectors scan their assigned fields for anything out of the ordinary, between the row, in the row or adjacent to the field. These front-line workers take numerous specific counts in each field to quantify any problems and help determine if the field qualifies for certification. They also verify isolation distances necessary to avoid cross contamination from other varieties in adjacent fields. You see, if a mistake is made by our inspectors, like missing a variety mixture or overlooking a purity issue, the problem will re-surface the following year on a much grander scale. Their job is to make sure what is in the ground matches what the variety is supposed to look like and any failures in identifying these differences could upend the integrity of the entire seed certification system.

Before our inspectors ever enter a field, they are extensively trained to ensure they are prepared for the challenges they will face. New inspectors are taught how to identify specific crop characteristics, distinguish different off-types and recognize objectionable weeds and apply these findings to MCIA's certification standards. Their training includes both classroom education as well as hands-on, in field instruction.

Many of the inspectors at MCIA have walked the same fields for the same growers for years. These inspectors have gotten to know the nuances of each field and understand the challenges each growing season brings. They take pride in knowing they are an integral part of the seed certification process and are a trusted resource in helping deliver a high-quality product the Michigan farmer can count on.

At MCIA we are proud of our inspectors. They don't wear capes or sit in boardrooms, but they carry out some of the most important work for the Association, year after year. They are our "eyes in the field". So next time you attach a certification or Quality Assurance tag to your seed bag, remember the person who walked the field and made the counts to ensure what you are selling to your customers is exactly what they expect.

Lab Update

LAUREN BOGI R.S.T

Grain samples have been arriving in the lab at a steady pace. Overall seed quality is looking strong even with the rain during the end of harvest. We've observed a few lots with minor sprouting, but nothing significant enough to affect germination results. Currently, the average combined germination percentages for untreated oats, rye, triticale, red and white wheat is 95%, with treated seed averaging 96%.

We're happy to report that Crop Data (our old seed testing platform) has been fully replaced by our new, custom-in-house lab data management system and is working great. While we've made a few minor adjustments on the back end, overall, we're very satisfied with the improvements. Joyce and I are saving time with reduced manual data entry, shifting from physical paper to digital copies/information, and lab reports are now sent to customers automatically.

As a reminder, the tests required to complete the certification process for all grain samples include purity, germination, tetrazolium (TZ) test, and seed count.

Seed tags are also being printed through the new system. If you need tags printed, feel free to call the office, or email Joyce or me. There is a new tag order request form available on our website. Head to www.michcrop.com, hover over "Seed Testing" in the top menu, click on "Lab Testing", scroll to the bottom of the first paragraph and click, "If you would like to place a tag order, click here". When submitting a tag order, please provide the following information: lab number and/or lot number, germination percentage (if you want something different from your lab report), quantity of tags needed, type of tag (sew on or stick on), and weight of tag(s).

We're here to support all your seed testing needs. If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out!

Fun Fact

On average Michigan residents return 10 MILLION bottles or cans to the store for a \$.10 bottle refund. That works out to about one can per person per day!





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Let's get social!

Find us on Facebook at:

**Michigan Crop Improvement
Association**

Calendar of Events 2025

August 15

Soybean and Dry Bean Applications Due

MCIA Office

Final Order for Wheat Seed Stock Due

September 1

Labor Day

MCIA Office Closed

November 28

Wheat Royalties Due

MCIA Office