

Maximizing Production in Dry Beans

Part Two

Weed control in my mind is one of the biggest challenges facing dry bean growers. As water hemp and palmer amaranth move into our province's fields, it becomes an even larger issue as most are resistant to five different groups of chemistry. Weed control on your farm should include a diverse crop rotation, multiple herbicide



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modes of action, tillage, narrow row spacing, possible use of cover crops and now some are even looking more at harvesting the weed seeds behind the combine. Typically, dry bean weed control starts with a pre plant incorporated product such as edge, treflan, dual, or eptam. Several pre-emergent surface applied products are available such as frontier or permit. In crop a follow up is typically required for additional annual weed control using basagran, viper, reflex or permit to keep fields clean up until harvest. Shur-Gro Sales Agronomists are available to help plan your herbicide rotation, scout your fields for weeds, determine application timing and discuss which options best suit your needs.

Disease control in Manitoba dry beans should be considered right from planting. A proper seed treatment can help mitigate fusarium and rhizoctonia root rots. Following emergence scouting should continue through the season to watch for anthracnose, blight and white mold. If you are seeding on narrow rows, then white mold would likely be your most common threat. Of course, the disease needs the right environment in the crop canopy to become an issue. There are several products to help in anthracnose and white mold management. On top of disease, it is a good idea to be scouting for soybean cyst nematode as dry beans are an alternative host and can suffer yield loss from this pest.

Harvest management has become a little bit trickier since most dry bean contracts now exclude the use of glyphosate for preharvest applications. Always be sure to consult with your buyer on what chemistry is allowed to be used on your dry bean crop – there are other options depending on your contract. In narrow row bean production straight cutting or swathing can be used in upright bean varieties. In wide rows and with beans such as cranberries, undercutting is often used followed by a Pickett harvester to collect the beans with the least amount of dirt tag and bean damage. Remember, these beans are all entering the food market and appearance matters! Check out [Dry Bean Desiccation and Harvest Considerations – Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers](#) for more information. The agronomic sales staff at Shur-Gro Farm Services have a wealth of knowledge and resources available to help you answer the questions you may have on dry bean production and how it might fit on your operation.

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