

Project G



Manitoba Crop Alliance SUNFLOWER PLANT POPULATION Replicated Strip Trial Protocol



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Objective:

The purpose of this project is to quantify the agronomic and economic impacts of plant populations on both Oilseed and Confectionary Sunflower production in Manitoba – 8 sites.

Brief Summary:

- The grower will seed their normal plant population in 4 strips, alternating with 4 strips each of a lower and higher plant population.
- An example is shown on the right using a target oilseed sunflower seeding rate of 21,000 seeds/acre, a lower and higher seeding rate of 18,000 and 24,000 seeds/ac. A lower target seeding rate is used for confections.
- The width of a strip must be at least as wide as a complete combine pass, preferably wider. The length should not be less than 1,000 feet.
- The alternating strips of the sunflower populations can be planted by using GPS to plant every other strip with one population and then filling in the skipped passes with the second plant population.
- Take a seed sample from the planter (about ½ an ice cream bucket).
- Harvesting must ensure at least one “pure” combine pass from each treatment (no mixing of yields from two different plant populations).

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|-------------------|
| 18,000 seeds/acre |
| 24,000 seeds/acre |
| 21,000 seeds/acre |
| 24,000 seeds/acre |
| 18,000 seeds/acre |
| 21,000 seeds/acre |
| 18,000 seeds/acre |
| 24,000 seeds/acre |
| 21,000 seeds/acre |
| 21,000 seeds/acre |
| 18,000 seeds/acre |
| 24,000 seeds/acre |

Grower Requirements:

- Supply information (if unknown at planting) on location, planting date, variety, planting rates, etc. by June 30.
- Areas containing waterways and headlands should be avoided. All other factors in the trial must be managed the same (planting date, variety, etc.)
- If possible, accurately record where all the treatments were applied using GPS mapping equipment.
- All the strips must be harvested on the same day.
- Allow the Manitoba Crop Alliance to use the collected data for research, education and informative purposes.
- ***Must be a member in good standing with the MCA.***

MCA and Partners Agree to:

- Attempt to collect aerial images from each field and provide them to the grower at no cost.
- Set up the trial with the grower in the field. Soil sample and weigh individual harvested strips with a weigh wagon taking plant counts just prior to harvest.
- Measure the head sizes at harvest and note any diseases present.
- Provide a report containing statistical analysis and economical treatment differences.
- Keep data in a confidential manner that cannot be linked back to the individual grower by other parties.

Benefits to the Grower:

- Access to the latest research which can be adapted to their farm.
- Creating a crop production database for your local area.
- Higher quality of data – multiple evaluations across a number of farms under different soil types, cropping history and management styles.

If you are interested in participating in a trial or have questions, please contact:

Jordan Karpinchick, CCA
Research on the Farm Trial Coordinator
Email: jordankarpinchick@toneag.com
Cell: 204-433-7189

Daryl Rex
Research Trial Specialist
Email: daryl@mbcropalliance.ca
Phone: 204-745-6661