

Project I:



Manitoba Crop Alliance SUNFLOWER BLACKBIRD (AVIAN) CONTROL Replicated Strip Trial Protocol



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OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of this project is to quantify the impact of Avian Control as a deterrent for Blackbirds in Sunflower – 4 sites.

BRIEF SUMMARY:

- The grower will plant either a confection or oil type sunflower hybrid.
- The grower will manage their crop as per their normal best management practices.
- The grower will apply Avian Control to 4 strips for a deterrent for blackbirds, alternating with untreated strips. An example is shown on the right.
- Strips should be full length of the field (minimum 1000 ft.) and width to allow for a full “pure” pass with combine header.

Rep 1	Avian Control
	Untreated
Rep 2	Untreated
	Avian Control
Rep 3	Untreated
	Avian Control
Rep 4	Avian Control
	Untreated

GROWER REQUIREMENTS:

- Accurately record soil test results, variety, seeding date and rate, previous cropping history (rotation, fertilizer rates), tillage practices, fertilizer rates and application timing.
- Accurately record where all treatments are within the field.
- Note any significant weather events throughout the growing season, such as high winds, hail, or extreme precipitation events.
- Areas containing waterways and headlands should be avoided. All other factors in the trial area must be treated the same.
- Alert trial coordinator of expected harvest date and ensure all treatments are harvested the same day into a weigh wagon/calibrated grain cart, and that grain samples can be secured for seed moisture and seed quality analysis.
- Allow MCA to use data for research, educational and information purposes.
- ***Must be a member in good standing with MCA.***

MCA AND PARTNERS AGREE TO:

- Be available during seeding and harvesting.
- Take various measurements, including stand establishment, height, lodging and crop maturity.
- Provide a report analyzing the statistical and economical treatment differences.
- Keep data in a confidential manner that cannot be linked back to the individual grower by other parties.

RESEARCH ON THE FARM COACHES:

- Project coordinator will work with local Research on the Farm coaches to collect field observations and harvest.
- Research on the Farm coaches may be local Manitoba Agriculture staff, retail or independent agronomists.

BENEFITS TO GROWERS:

- Access to the latest research that can be applied to their farm.
- Determine profitability of the practices.
- Learn accepted on-farm testing procedures.

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

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Data to be Collected by Contractor or MCA (2024 Trials):

- ✓ Plant Stand – plants per acre – after emergence but prior to harvesting
- ✓ Lodging – 1=no lodging; 5=flat – just prior to harvest or before swathing
- ✓ General health of the plant 1=no disease; 5=diseased plants (rated before maturity)
- ✓ Yield – lbs/acre
- ✓ Harvest Sample – 1 composite sample/treatment for quality analysis supplied to MCA
- ✓ General Observations – e.g., General weed control; early season plant vigor