



# National Sunflower Association of Canada Inc.

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July 7, 2008

Dear Sunflower Grower,

Just a reminder that the **1<sup>st</sup> Manitoba Special Crops Summer Tour** will be held on **Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**. Again this year the Board of Directors has agreed to join with the Manitoba Pulse Growers and Manitoba Corn Growers to hold a joint summer tour. Our day will begin with coffee at 8:00 am at AAFC Morden Research Station for plot tours of Sunflowers, edible beans, soybeans and peas for the morning. The tour will then move to the Hyland Research Farm (just 2 miles east of Carman on Hwy. 3) for a complimentary lunch and continue with the afternoon portion at the Hyland farm touring Corn and Soybean plots. After we conclude the plots tours, all attendees are invited to attend a Crop Diagnostic School tour at the U of M Research Farm (1 mile west of Carman, Manitoba on Hwy 245) featuring the three crops. Plot demonstrations featuring Sunflowers include seeding rate and depth, row crop vs. solid seeding and nutrient deficiencies.

#### Authority Registration

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 it was announced that Authority (sulfentrazone) received registration for Chickpeas in Saskatchewan only with specific retail locations identified to sell the chemical. FMC, the registrant, will now pursue a label expansion for **sunflowers**, field pea, dry beans, soybeans and flax. The NSAC will be taking a lead role on this registration and the board has passed a motion that financial expenses may need to be incurred to meet with the regulatory body to express the need for this chemical. The Board asks that any Sunflower producers in support of the Authority registration contact their local Member of Parliament to express the urgent need of this chemistry for the control of the broadleaf weed kochia, which Sunflower growers currently do not have any herbicides available for. Board representatives will be contacting MPs and the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that our concerns are expressed, and that registration is not delayed. A post-harvest trip is planned to meet and discuss our position with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in Ottawa.

#### Amendments to the Seed Regulatory Framework

Recently announced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) were the proposed amendments to the federal *Seeds Regulations* which were published in the June 27<sup>th</sup> Canada Gazette for a 75-day public comment period. The proposed changes include a movement of Sunflowers to Part III of the flexible variety registration which would therefore no longer require pre-registration testing or merit assessment. This announcement comes with great excitement to the Board of Directors as the Association has been participating and expressing the need for change within the industry for over a decade. Once the proposed changes are in effect, seed companies will no longer be required to enter new varieties into the Manitoba Sunflower Committee Co-op tests. This will allow Canadian Sunflower growers more timely access to varieties. Consequently, this is expected to lead to an eventual increase in the number and diversity of registered sunflower varieties that would better address producers' different agronomic needs and end users' unique quality demands. To review the full proposed changes, visit <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/variet/vartoce.shtml>

#### Sunflower Post-Registration Trials

Again this year, the NSAC is coordinating and administering the Sunflower Post-Registration Trials. These trials are intended to provide Sunflower growers with a third-party information source for new

cultivars as they enter the market place. This year we have increased to 6 sites around Manitoba; Carman, Morden, MacGregor, Melita, Minto and Oak Bluff. Trial and plot maps are available at [www.canadasunflower.com](http://www.canadasunflower.com) for those growers that wish to visit the trials.

Canadian Sunflower Grower Magazine

The Board of Directors is excited to announce that the NSAC will now be producing an annual Sunflower magazine called *Canadian Sunflower Grower* to begin distribution in December 2008. This magazine will feature office and research updates, variety trial information, Sunflower marketing as well as the agenda to the Manitoba Special Crops Symposium. The board plans to use this publication as a Sunflower Directory for the year and an industry resource for growers to source information. The magazine will be distributed to all active Sunflower growers who have remitted check-off to the Association in the previous two years from the distribution date. The first issue will hit mailboxes in early December.

The NSAC continues to be working on behalf of Canadian Sunflower growers; some of the current files that the Association is currently addressing include the Authority registration, reviewing the proposed amendments to the Sunflower Variety Registration system, coordinating the Sunflower Post-Registration trials in conjunction with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, preparations to conduct the 2008 Sunflower Survey, planning for the 2009 MB Special Crops Symposium to be held February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and continuing to update our website ([www.canadasunflower.com](http://www.canadasunflower.com)).

I hope to see you all at our Summer Tour, and if there are any questions surrounding the tour or any of the topics mentioned, please feel free to contact me at the information above.

Regards,



Darcelle Mabon  
Executive Director

**The National Sunflower Association acknowledges the contribution  
of our Corporate Members: Thank-you!**

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> Manitoba Special Crops Summer Tour

Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008

Presented By



Tour will include:

AAFC Morden Research Station

Hyland Research Farm 2 ½ Miles East Of Carman On Hwy #3

And A Stop At Crop Diagnostic School At the U of M Research Farm

- Bean breeding, pathology and agronomy

- Soybean breeding plots

- Pea breeding and pathology

- Manitoba Corn Committee Trials

- Sunflower co-op and post registration trials and disease nursery

8:00 am – Registration at AAFC Morden

Plot Tours for Edible Beans, Soybeans, Peas, and Sunflowers

12:00 pm – Lunch at Hyland Research Farm Carman (Pick Pork BBQ)

1:00 pm – Tour at Hyland Research Farm featuring Corn and Soybean plots

### For more information contact

Manitoba Pulse Growers Association – (204) 745-6488

Manitoba Corn Growers Association – (204) 745-6661

National Sunflower Association of Canada – (204) 745-6776

Or visit our websites:

[www.manitobapulse.ca](http://www.manitobapulse.ca)

[www.manitobacorn.ca](http://www.manitobacorn.ca)

[www.canadasunflower.com](http://www.canadasunflower.com)