



Growers enthusiastic about first year of Pod-Stik in canola, peas

First used in Western Canada in 2008 – shows great promise and momentum

Pod sticking products, which have been used successfully by European canola growers for a number of years, have the potential to revolutionize canola production practices in Western Canada. The same holds true for pea production.

Pod-Stik™, a foliar product based on a unique polymer blend that has been proven successful in Europe and the U.K., is now available to Canadian canola and pea growers from UAP Canada – providing the longest-lasting protection against harvest losses from pod shatter.

Pod-Stik lasts about eight weeks after application before breaking down and does not have any adverse effects on dry down, seed maturity or quality. It's a convenient and effective way to maximize the value of your maturing canola or pea crop.

UAP recommends that **Pod-Stik** be applied about three weeks before harvest when the pods are light green and still pliable. Somewhere in the 40-60% colour change.

The 2008 growing season was the first time **Pod-Stik** was used in Western Canada and UAP talked to growers about their experience using the product to see how it was working under local conditions. Here's what some of them had to say:

Troy Monea grows about 2,500 acres of canola, wheat, barley and peas on his family's farming operation near Wetaskiwin, Alberta. After hearing about **Pod-Stik** last summer, he asked his aerial applicator to apply it to about a half-section of canola to check it out for himself.

Monea was impressed with the results and plans to apply **Pod-Stik** in both canola and peas in 2009, as well as recommending it to his custom application customers in Central Alberta.

"The hilltops were drying out faster than the low spots and I needed more time to try to let the low spots mature. We decided to use **Pod-Stik** to try to give the crop another 10 or 12 days before swathing," said Monea, explaining the situation in his canola field last year.

"When it came time to swath, we were able to swath the hilltops. None of the canola was shattered on the hilltops. If we hadn't sprayed **Pod-Stik**, they would have all been gone. It's definitely a product that will protect what you've put into the field already. It's going to protect your yield potential."

Don Boles of Tulane Farms in Three Hills, Alberta had a similar experience. Boles grows 3,000 acres in a four crop rotation of peas, wheat, barley and canola. Towards the end of the season, he heard about **Pod-Stik** on a Monday and by Wednesday afternoon he was spraying 800 acres of his pea crop with **Pod-Stik** to help manage the harvest and minimize harvest losses due to shatter.

"We grew three different varieties of peas and needed to manage the harvest since the varieties were not perfectly even in maturity. So, we had to combine our pea fields in a certain order. That's where **Pod-Stik** came in, said Boles.

"The results were excellent. The advantage of **Pod-Stik** is it keeps the pods from shattering. If you get a heavy rain in a field of peas, it can shatter pods like it's been hailed on. But with **Pod-Stik** you're protected."

Boles plans to use **Pod-Stik** in canola this year -- and try straight-cutting the crop.



That's what another Alberta grower, **Rick Strankman**, tried last year with good success. Farming since 1973, Strankman is always looking for ways to be innovative on his operation that includes about 3,000 acres of canola and cereals near Altario, Alberta. Strankman applied **Pod-Stik** to about 250 acres of specialty canola.

"From my experience, I believe **Pod-Stik** is an effective new management tool for harvesting canola," said Strankman. "I would most definitely recommend **Pod-Stik** to other producers, especially farmers who are covering larger acreages and might have labour shortages."

Strankman had a particularly interesting example that really illustrates the advantage **Pod-Stik** offers in protecting the value of your canola crop. "We had a situation last year where after we had swathed around the perimeter of the canola field there was a whirlwind that went through the field. The whirlwind picked up the swath and threw it out into the standing crop. To my astonishment, underneath the standing crop you couldn't see any shelled product. You could see the trail where the whirlwind had gone through, so I thought there should be some shelling there because the wind was extreme enough to lift the swath and throw it out into the standing crop, but there wasn't" explained Strankman.

"To me that really confirmed that this product works!"



For further information or to book Pod-Stik for your operation, contact your local UAP retailer, or call UAP at 1-800-561-5444 today.



www.uap.ca

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