

# ROQUETTE GROWER CONNECT – October 2020



Welcome to Roquette's **Grower Connect Newsletter!**

Our goal is to connect with growers monthly, sharing information to use as you Grow With Roquette. We are also developing **Grow With Roquette** agronomy bulletins to extend practical planning information for growing peas for 2021. These will be available at [GrowWithRoquette.com](http://GrowWithRoquette.com).

## **UPDATE: Construction of the Portage Pea Protein Plant**

The Portage la Prairie pea protein plant is on track to start operations by the end of 2020.

The ability of western Canadian growers to supply the quantity and high-quality yellow peas for the plant was an important consideration in selecting the plant's location. At capacity, the plant will process 125,000 MT of yellow peas annually.

Roquette has invested more than \$600 million of its own funds into the construction of the plant. When complete, the Portage plant will employ 120 people and will be the largest of its kind in the world!

Interested in seeing a bird's eye view of the construction progress? Check out this [flyover video](#) of the construction site, which was recorded in September 2020.

## **Monitoring Peas in Storage**

From grower conversations this past week, we are getting reports of "a few bushels of tough peas in the peaks of the bin" and big differences in the seed moisture, based on where they are sitting in the bin. For example, the bottom is 11%, middle is 14% and bin top is 16%. Because of this, we want you to be mindful of strategies to help prevent spoilage.

In October, for long-term storage (90 days +), peas should now be at <15°C and be 14% (or lower) moisture. Most variation in the bin can be managed by turning on aeration fans to further cool and move moisture fronts through the bin. This can also move air through hot spots where weed seeds or green material collected.

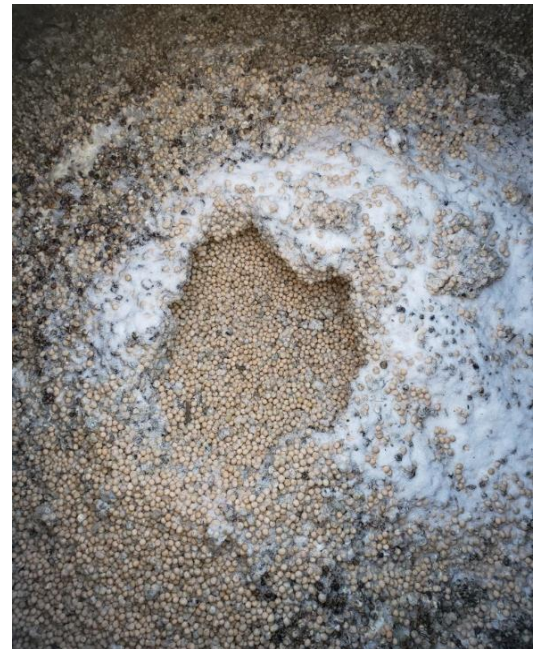
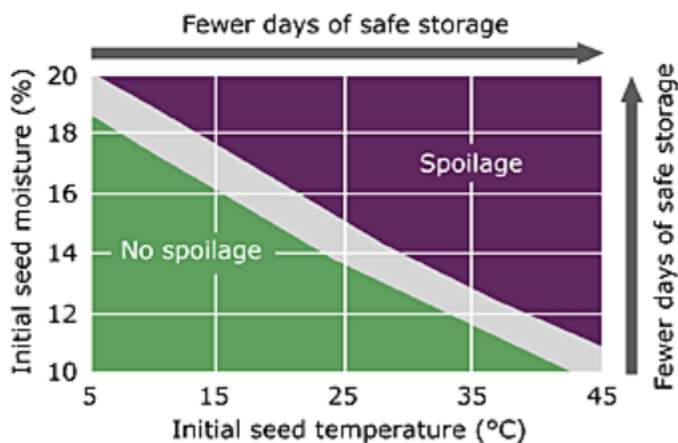
Having good ventilation at the top of the bin to allow warm/moist air to escape is important, as well. If you see condensation at the top of the bin, more air needs to escape out of the top.

You can also consider recirculating a load through the bin (take a load out and add it back to the top). This moves dry peas to the top and breaks up any high moisture or hot spots in the bin. Using aeration after this step can help further equalize moisture.

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Looking for more specifics? Here [is a link](#) to a great article put out by the Sask Pulse Growers on drying, cooling and handling of pulse crops and another from the Canadian Grains Commission on [monitoring grain temperature and aerating grain](#).

Below: the diagram shows the interaction of seed moisture and temperature and when spoilage is less likely to occur (source: Canadian Grain Commission).



Right: Example of crusting in the peak of a grain bin caused by moisture accumulation and development of mold. Crusting can be reduced by ensuring moisture can escape out of the top of the bin. There are two options to tackle this problem. The first is using aeration alone and opening the top hatch. The second is turning the bin in combination with opening the top hatch.



## Moving Peas in Cold Weather

Once the weather gets below 0 °C, your peas in storage should only be moved to ship. Move your peas as little as possible to reduce seed coat damage.

Roquette recommends using belt conveyors instead of augers to further reduce potential damage. If using an auger, run the auger full and at a reduced speed. Grain vacuums are not recommended to move an entire bin load, only use as necessary to clean the bottom of flat-bottomed bins.

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## NEW for 2021 Production Year

**Multi-Year Contracting** - Roquette will be offering the option of pricing one- or two-year contracts for this up-coming season. Please call or text **Glen Last** for more details at 204-872-0619 (cell) or 403-304-0173 (Teams).

**Preferred List of Pea Varieties** - For 2021 Roquette Production Contracts, any yellow field pea can be grown under a production contract, but premiums given to farmers who grow a variety from our preferred higher-protein variety list.

The preferred varieties are: Abarth, Agassiz, AAC Asher, AAC Lacombe, AAC Profit, CDC Amarillo, CDC Canary, CDC Inca, CDC Lewochko, CDC Saffron and CDC Spectrum.

Please talk to your Roquette Agronomists **Bruce Brolley** at 431-588-8414 (cell) or **Anastasia Kubinec** at 204-295-8013 (cell) for more details.

### **Environment Farm Plan Update**

As part of the contract with Roquette, producers need to complete an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to meet a sustainable sourcing standards. Through the EFP process, farmers will highlight their farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic action plans with time tables to improve environmental conditions. Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, as well as Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have collaborated with Roquette and developed a specific Pea Production Chapter.

If you farm in Manitoba, select this [link](#):

EFP support webinars hosted every two weeks through GoTo Meetings from October 21, 2020 to March 3, 2021. To register for an EFP workshop, contact Tami Watson (204) 239-3352, [tamara.watson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:tamara.watson@gov.mb.ca). Once registered, arrangements will be made to provide you with the EFP workbooks and support material needed for the workshop.

If you farm in Saskatchewan, select this [link](#):

EFP program is all virtual. Producers create an account and work on-line through an on-line tool. Completing or updating an EFP online will allow producers to work through the process at their own pace in order to complete an individual action plan. For technical assistance or more information on the Environmental Farm Plan Program please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or [aginfo@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aginfo@gov.sk.ca).