Southwest Crop Diagnostic Day 2009

The Southwest Diagnostic Day program provides seed, fertilizer and chemical industry personnel and agricultural consultants with



training in the diagnosis of crop problems. It was held at University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus on July 8 and 9, 2009; the 15th year of this outstanding technology transfer program. Organized by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, the day is designed specifically to hone the problem solving skills of agribusiness representatives through "hands-on" activities related to the correct identification and treatment of crop problems common to southern Ontario. The goal of the Diagnostic Days program is to provide quality training in all aspects of crop production and management.



The topics this year included:

- Cereal Physiology
- Fungicide Application in Corn
- Weed Competition, Nitrogen and Corn Roots
- Herbicide Injury in Corn
- Insect Pests of 2009
- Diagnostic Tools and Tests for Vegetable Crops
- Corn Disease Management
- Herbicide Injury in Soybeans
- Desiccants in Dry Beans
- The Wonders of Soybean
 Breeding
- Detrimental Weeds for Export
- Insect ID Workshop
- Getting the Most from Manure, Compost and Biosolids
- Gadgets Galore



348 participants over two days attended this valuable hands-on learning experience. Technology transfer, research and teaching staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus were involved in presenting the sessions.

Once again the SWCDD hosted a "Mini Diagnostic Night" for local 4-H Field Crop clubs. More than 65 members and parents from 6 clubs got the chance to take a wagon tour of the plots and take in three of the stops featured during Diagnostic Days. In addition they toured the Soil Health lab that Adam Hayes and Anne Verhallen had set up on campus. The evening event attracts older 4-H members that would be working during the day and gives them an opportunity to explore agricultural careers.

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Visit our website <u>www.diagnosticdays.ca</u> for next year's dates and topics.

