



# The Hope of Harvest is in the Seed...

## Support Sugarbeets!!!

Despite previous approval, the USDA was ordered to complete an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the potential environmental impacts of Roundup Ready Sugarbeets.

The USDA is now accepting public comments on the Environmental Impact Statement, and these responses will help determine if farmers will have the choice to plant Roundup Ready Sugarbeets again without restrictions.

### So What Can I Do???

Simple: Just submit a public comment on the following website:

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

All it will take is to write a short statement to the USDA explaining why Roundup Ready Sugarbeets are important to you and your farming operation. Your personalized input really can make a difference - the deadline to comment is Dec 13th so please do so within the next couple weeks.

Of the many on-farm decisions that you will make throughout the year, sugarbeet variety selection has more of an impact on your bottom line than many of the others combined. As all of you well know, the right (or in many cases the wrong) variety can make or break a field, and unlike the option of a "rescue" treatment when a chemical application fails, you only have one shot to get this decision right.

While many of the new varieties approved for sale in 2012 may look attractive on paper, gone are the days of simply choosing the highest yielding variety in the trials and planting it across the entire farm. Growers must be aware of the shortcomings that some of these varieties have when it comes to disease tolerance, stand establishment and yield / quality parameters. Each variety available for sale at Minn-Dak has very unique traits that need to be matched to the specific needs of each individual field. This is where going through and evaluating your field history data with your Agriculturist becomes a critical step in the variety selection process. Simply selecting varieties that crown uniformly for ease of defoliating / harvesting on heavy clay soils, varieties that exhibit high vigor and emergence ability in fields with a history of poor stand establishment, and varieties that performed well in the disease nurseries for fields plagued with a history of root rot can dramatically improve and help maximize your per-acre return.

### Aphanomyces



Photos: A. Cattanaach

Root Rot Ratings of each variety are established in diseases nurseries every year based upon their comparison to 19 standardized checks. Under the guidelines of the Minn-Dak Seed Policy, for a variety to be classified as "Disease Specialty" it must have a 3-Year root rating (2-Year for Test Market) below the following levels:

**Aphanomyces < 4.45**

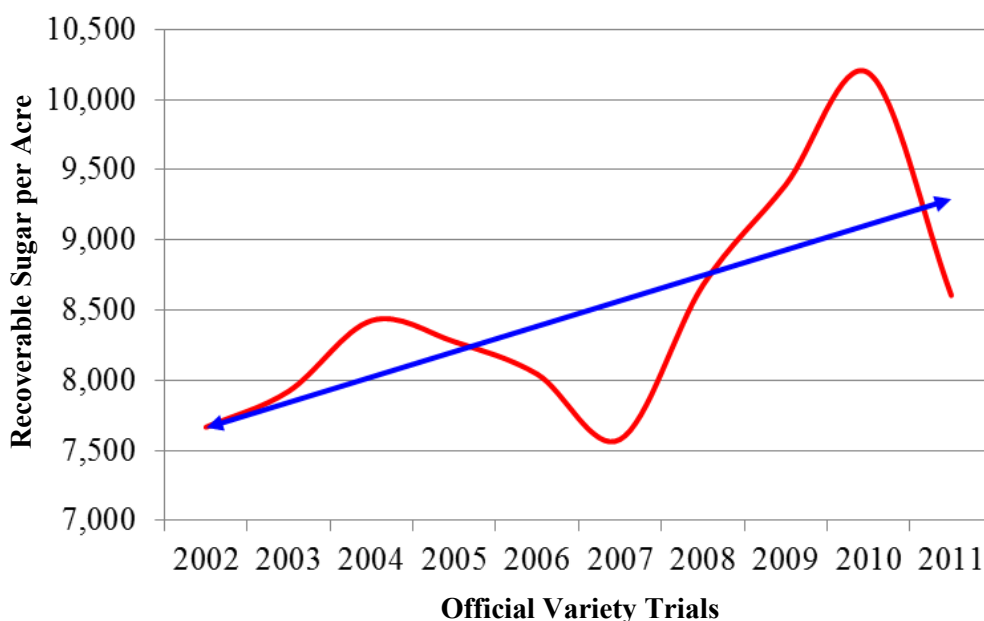
**Rhizoctonia < 3.82**

## Varietal Performance is On the Rise...

Over the past few years, all of the varieties planted at Minn-Dak have seen more changes to their genetics than they have over the previous two decades. The first major change encountered was the introduction of the Rhizomania gene. This virus-resistance trait was present in 17% of the varieties planted during the 2005 season jumping to nearly 100% in 2006. The second change, to no one's surprise, was introduction of glyphosate-tolerance into the current sugarbeet germplasm. Although it was limited to 50% of the acres in 2008, that number quickly rose to 97% in 2009 and finally 100% in 2010.

Seed companies have always worked very hard to bring the best possible beet seed to the Minn-Dak market. From a plant breeder's side of the fence, it is a constant juggling act to try and balance disease resistance, vigor and emergence potential against both yield and quality within a single variety – and accomplish this balance without sacrificing the variety's ability to generate high amounts of sugar per acre. What impresses me the most is that amidst all of the genetic changes encountered above, the quality of seed being planted at Minn-Dak continues to improve year in and year out. Looking at the graph below, the red line represents the

average recoverable sugar per acre from the official variety trials for each year over the past decade. The blue line indicates the statistical trend line of the data, show that the breeders working on our varieties are not only doing their job, but they are also headed in the right direction...



## 2011 - A Year in Review...

### Final Home Station Report

Station	Acres Harvested	Total Tons	Percent Tare	Percent Sugar	Percent Purity	Tons per Acre	Sugar per Ton	Sugar per Acre
<b>Fact MN</b>	20,699	400,822	1.90	17.96	88.54	19.36	299.78	5,806
<b>Fact ND</b>	10,441	163,859	2.41	17.47	88.12	15.69	289.35	4,542
<b>Tyler</b>	14,821	218,076	2.50	17.22	87.98	14.71	284.41	4,186
<b>Gorder</b>	8,069	114,453	2.34	17.47	87.90	14.18	288.34	4,092
<b>Hawes</b>	8,863	112,117	2.22	17.46	87.74	12.65	287.43	3,640
<b>Yaggie</b>	15,852	303,947	2.12	17.72	88.62	19.17	295.98	5,678
<b>Lehman</b>	13,638	166,276	2.38	17.06	87.67	12.19	280.25	3,419
<b>Lyngaas</b>	10,290	165,776	1.96	17.74	88.37	16.11	295.17	4,756
<b>Peet</b>	17,845	309,312	2.00	17.75	88.88	17.33	297.70	5,158
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>120,519</b>	<b>1,954,638</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>17.61</b>	<b>88.34</b>	<b>16.22</b>	<b>292.78</b>	<b>4,750</b>