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### Wheat on our mind?

In most parts, wheat in the Lambton/Middlesex area was planted into good conditions, at the proper timing and had a good cover of snow that helped the crop withstand low frost temperatures. Some wheat that was planted in September seems more advanced than in previous years, early October planted wheat seems to have the “perfect” size, and some later planted wheat is on the smaller size. Everywhere had a lot of snow, and so far, we have not had so much rain (yet) which helped the melt down of the snow. Standing water in most cases is not an issue and some ground got more frost than others. There is some snow mold to see in some areas but otherwise wheat is greening up nicely. Overall, a pretty good start for March.



**Nitrogen & Sulphur** applications are always the big question. Timing of applications and how much to apply are good things to ask. Early nitrogen is always good, and it is important to have the sulphur included. The stage of the wheat is an important factor to consider. Wheat that went in the ground in mid-September will be further along than wheat planted end of October. This should be considered when deciding on rates of nitrogen and sulphur (see picture). That is a discussion held case by case. In general, the nitrogen and sulphur should go on early. Ammonium sulphur and urea or UAN with sulphur are good options to provide nitrogen and sulphur to the plants. It is proven that 2 applications are better than one. Nitrogen and sulphur are leachable elements and the amount of rainfall we get plays a large factor in how

much stays around. A second application will help mitigate that risk and keep nutrients available to the plants.

### Other factors to consider:

If not already in your program, a growth regulator for advanced wheat should be considered. Lodging can cause significant yield losses as well as quality issues if left lodged for long periods of time. A bigger stand of wheat could need an early fungicide spray in the season. Scouting will help you determine your yield potential and if disease is already present. A product that helps with abiotic stresses is also a good idea to things about. Grain fill period in wheat can be met with some temperamental weather so helping the plants mitigate the effects of that can help ensure no yield loss. Weeds in wheat, if not taken care in the fall, might be necessary in the spring. To save a dollar, scouting can help make the right decision. Every field is different, and well-advanced wheat will suppress a lot of weeds.