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**RUDY**  
*Agro*

*Always on the grow.*

## 2021 Organic Marrowfat Peas

### Contracting Program

#### The Market

2021-22 will be the fourth year for our Organic MFP program. We've continued to research production techniques and options. Like all organic pulses, there are production challenges associated with Organic MFP.

The market has continued to increase in the USA and we will increase the volume in 2021 by 25 to 40%. The challenge for the end user is that the market for the finished product is also competitive and the cost of producing an organic snack is expensive, so they are looking for any price relief that can be offered. The key here is production, and us assisting growers to increase yields which will achieve the profitability required at the farmgate.

#### Production

The agronomics of MFP are similar to those of green or yellow peas when it comes to production. Organically though, they are not as competitive with weed pressure, so it is important to:

- Keep seeding rates high, minimum 4 bushels/acre;
- Be patient in the spring and wait for the proper moisture levels to allow for good seed bed preparation. Seeding into a weed-free environment will also give the peas a good head start;
- Harrow post-emergence and before the seedlings are taller than 10 cm;
- Harrow on warm days when the soil surface is dry and when the peas are slightly wilted to reduce breakage. This can be done several times depending on weed pressure;
- Do in-row cultivation to keep the peas weed free as long as possible;
- Plant peas on forage stubble or summerfallow;
- Remember that organic peas have done very well on irrigation.

#### The Program

For the 2021 crop RAL is offering total production contracts featuring:

- ◆ Delivery of the entire crop in the fall within 10 days after receipt of the harvested sample, to allow for chemical testing, with payment within 10 days of delivery;
- ◆ A fixed contract price of \$20.00/bu FOB farm on whole peas grading RAL #2 or better, with \$12.00/bu paid on splits;
- ◆ This fixed price is available on up to the first 20 bushels per acre. The balance of production will enter our Organic Production Pool.



## Organic Marrowfat Peas

### Grading

MFPs are subject to the same grading factors as green peas in terms of bleach, stain/damage, and crack seed coats. However the tolerance for bleach is much higher than that of green peas. This together with RAL's support throughout the growing season, and fall timing, will help to ensure you receive a #2 grade for your production. When mother nature decides to provide a #3 grade, RAL is well equipped with color sorters, as well blending capability with the rest of the program, to maximize value on your production.

MFPs aren't recognized by the Canadian Grain Commission, so RAL has the following in-house grades utilized by both the buyers as well our growers. Following are the grade parameters:

- ◆ **Bleach:** In order for a kernel to be deemed bleach, the seed coat must be removed and at least 1/3 of the cotyledon will need to be white, or "bleached" in appearance. Bleach is only a grading factor; there is no deduction for the bleach percentage;
- ◆ **Stained/Damage:** Kernels with dark spots, covering greater than 5% of the kernel will be deemed stained/damage. This percentage is paid at the daily bid price for feed peas at the time of delivery;
- ◆ **Cracked Seed Coats (CSC):** Any seed coat that is cracked, and when roughly rolled between the fingers breaks apart will be considered CSC. This percentage is also deducted and added to the splits/feed component. MFP have a tough seed coat and provided they are harvested at 14-15% moisture, growers will enjoy low CSC percentage upon delivery.
- ◆ **Earth Tag:** Earth tag is caused by attempting to harvest the peas at too high moisture, or when the accompanying weed mass hasn't had enough time/heat to properly dry down. As the peas pass through the combine, moisture from the weeds is squeezed onto the peas, and dust from within the combine then sticks to the peas, causing earth tag. Essentially no level of earth tag is acceptable in the end sample. Earth tag can be managed at harvest.

RAL has established two grades for Marrowfat Peas:

#### **RAL #2**

- Bleach in excess of 20% to a maximum of 60%
- Maximum 5% Stained/Damaged
- Maximum 10% Cracked Seed Coats

#### **RAL #3**

Number 3 peas are those that don't fit into either the #1 or #2 categories. These lots are looked at on an individual basis to find the best market opportunity for the crop, or additional processing color sorting to ensuring the crop is marketable.



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### Harvest

MFPs can be swathed green in order to assist with preserving their green colour and speeding up harvest. RAL staff will visit the fields during the growing season as well as in the fall to gauge harvest timing. In addition we have found photos to be a good tool in further assisting growers in the proper timing for cutting of the crop to maximize both quality and yield. Just a note that the residue after harvest can be windrowed and generally makes for excellent organic feed once bailed, if there is organic feed demand in your area.

### Seed

For 2021 Rudy has In-House RAL Certified conventional MFP planting seed at a cost of \$15.00/bu FOB RAL.

The seed is carried interest free and payment isn't due until delivery in the fall, or by October 31, 2020.

If you're looking for an organic pulse rotation for 2021, and increased profitability combined with great delivery and cash flow, this is it!