



# Manitoba Pulse Crop Acreage 2003

## A Bean Counter's Perspective

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**J**. Alfred Prufrock from the T.S. Elliot poem is famous for having “measured his life in coffee spoons” but bean producers demarcate their lives in bean crops—in my mind that makes bean producers literal “bean counters.” In turn, as someone involved in the Ag sector that monitors the production of bean growers, I am also a bean counter. Therefore as one bean counter to another, I’m pleased to have this opportunity to provide a review of the Manitoba pulse crop acreage in 2003 with a few humorous calculations thrown in to make the otherwise dry statistics a little more interesting.

Manitoba’s pulse acreage dropped in 2003. Acreage reductions were most notable in dry edible beans, field peas and fababeans. Some of this acreage reduction was offset by a substantial increase in soybean acreage. Total pulse crop acreage in Manitoba was 92% of the 2002 acreage. Despite the decline from 2002, Manitoba’s pulse crop acreage is still relatively high. The 2003 pulse crop acreage is still 15% above the three-year average (2000 to 2002).

Pulse crop seeded acreage information reported to the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation (MCIC) is provided in Table 1. For most pulse crops it is estimated that over 90% of the acreage grown is reported to MCIC. This good representation allows a good comparison of how pulse crop acreage has changed

in Manitoba. Please note that although soybeans are not technically a pulse crop they are included as a pulse crop in these discussions for agronomic and MPGA jurisdiction reasons.

In 2003, the major pulse crops grown in Manitoba were dry edible beans (224,612 acres), field peas (119,110 acres) and soybeans (220,814 acres). The most notable acreage change in 2003 was the 86% increase in soybean acreage from the previous year. The total acreage of all pulses in Manitoba was approximately 578,000 acres—this is an 8% reduction from the previous year.

The shift in pulse crop acreage in 2003 relative to historic averages is illustrated in Figure 1. Soybeans have increased in importance, both in acreage and on a relative basis. Soybeans now represent

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**Table 1. MCIC 2003 Reported Acreage**

	2003 Acres	2003 Main Variety (% Share)	2002 Acres	Average 2000-2002 Acres
<b>DRY EDIBLE BEANS</b>	<b>224,612</b>		<b>312,228</b>	<b>259,546</b>
Navy (White Pea)	93,329	Envoy (60%)	138,979	128,579
Pinto	73,955	AC Pintoba (38%)	78,830	61,084
Kidney	12,916		13,282	12,244
Red Kidney		Foxfire (47%)	13,068	12,062
White Kidney			214	181
Cranberry	4,237	Messina (63%)	5,649	5,728
Black	16,947	AC Harblack (93%)	53,936	35,469
Small Red	7,059	AC Scarlet (42%)	7,592	5,916
Other	16,169		13,970	10,528
Brown		Berna (100%)	1,584	739
Pink		ROG 312 (78%)	5,572	2,686
Great Northern		Matterhorn (63%)	6,799	7,081
Other			15	20
<b>FIELD PEAS</b>	<b>119,110</b>		<b>181,961</b>	<b>151,675</b>
Yellow	97,058	Swing (15%)	154,903	125,098
Green	16,697	Majoret (27%)	23,067	22,180
Other	5,355	MarrowFat (33%)	3,991	4,387
<b>LENTILS</b>	<b>3,354</b>		<b>313</b>	<b>12,420</b>
<b>FABABEANS</b>	<b>7,651</b>		<b>9,948</b>	<b>13,488</b>
<b>SOYBEANS</b>	<b>220,814</b>		<b>118,916</b>	<b>61,100</b>
<b>CHICKPEAS</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>ALL PULSES</b>	<b>575,541</b>		<b>623,451</b>	<b>498,660</b>



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38% of the pulse acreage in Manitoba. Despite feeling the strong pressure from soybeans, dry edible beans are still squeaking by as the main pulse crop in Manitoba—they represent 39% of the pulse crop acreage.

By my calculations nearly one trillion soybean seeds were produced in

Manitoba in 2003. The next time you are looking at one Manitoba produced soybean seed put it into perspective and remember that one part per trillion is equal to a jigger of scotch in Lake Superior, or one grain of salt in an Olympic sized swimming pool.

A relative comparison of pulse crop acreage in Manitoba in 2003 compared to historical acreage is provided in Table 2. The three-year average is provided for comparison purposes to minimize anomalous information caused by any one-year's deviations.

Except for increases in acreage of lentils and soybeans, the acreage of pulse crops generally decreased in 2003. Dry edible bean acreage was down 28% from the 2002 acreage—this included decreases in most bean types, particularly navy and black beans.

On the positive side there were increases in acreage of brown and great northern beans. Field pea acreage was down 35% from the 2002 acreage. Over 55,000 less acres of yellow peas were sown in 2003. There was nearly a ten-fold increase in lentil acreage in 2003 relative to 2002 but the 2003 acreage was still roughly half the previous three-year average. Soybean acreage jumped nearly 86% in 2003 from 2002. Fababean acreage was down to 77% of the 2002 acreage and no chickpea acreage was reported to MCIC in 2003.

Figure 1.

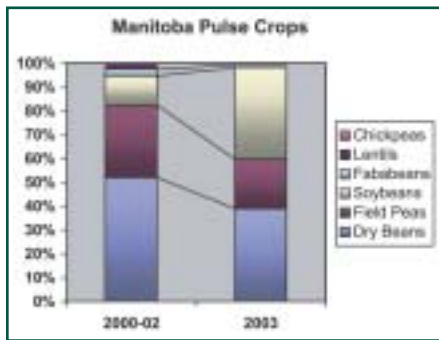
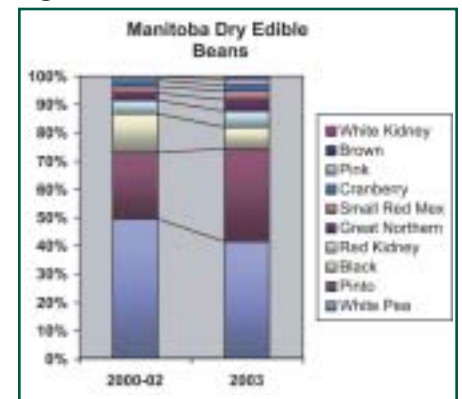


Table 2. Percentage Acreage Change

	Percentage of 2002 Acres	Percentage of 2001-2002 Average Acres
<b>DRY EDIBLE BEANS</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>87%</b>
Navy (White Pea)	67%	73%
Pinto	94%	121%
Kidney & Cranberry	97%	105%
Red Kidney	99%	107%
White Kidney	0%	0%
Cranberry	75%	74%
Black	31%	48%
Small Red	93%	119%
Other	116%	154%
Brown	148%	317%
Pink	89%	185%
Great Northern	130%	125%
Other	0%	0%
<b>FIELD PEAS</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Yellow	63%	78%
Green	72%	75%
Other	134%	122%
<b>LENTILS</b>	<b>1072%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>FABABEANS</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>SOYBEANS</b>	<b>186%</b>	<b>361%</b>
<b>CHICKPEAS</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>ALL PULSES</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>115%</b>

Figure 2.



By my calculations, although only 119,110 acres of peas were grown in Manitoba in 2003 this amounts to nearly 500-billion seeds. If the seeds produced on these acres were placed end-to-end they could wrap around the earth (40,200 km) over 50 times or go from the earth to the moon (380,000 km) six times.

The relative distribution of dry edible bean types shifted in 2003. Relative to historic averages the relative acreage of white pea beans decreased to the benefit of coloured beans. Particularly noticeable was the increased proportion of bean acreage designated to pinto, great northern and brown beans. Figure 2 illustrates the shifts in field bean types that occurred in Manitoba in 2003 relative to the three-year average (2000–2002).

By my calculations the number of dry edible bean seeds produced in Manitoba in 2003 is over 500-billion. Assuming

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## New Pulse Crop Breeder

**P**arthiba Balasubramanian was born and raised in India. He completed a B.Sc. in Agriculture at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. Parthiba came to Canada in 1995 to pursue a graduate program with Dr. A. Slinkard, Pulse Crop Breeder at the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan.

As part of his graduate studies, Parthiba developed a laboratory canning protocol for evaluating canning quality of dry bean seeds, and also studied genotypic and environmental effects on dry bean canning quality. His work was supported by the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Scholarship.

Parthiba began a Ph.D. program in 1998 with Dr. A. Vandenberg, Pulse Crop Breeder and Dr. P. Hucl, Wheat Breeder, both at the University of Saskatchewan. His research focussed on the genetic improvement of dry bean cultivars for emergence with cool seedbed temperature and frost resistance.

Parthiba's research identified both bean germplasm with improved



*Don Sissons greets Parthiba Balasubramanian, new pulse crop breeder, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Morden*

emergence under cold seedbed temperature and enhanced frost resistance. His Ph.D. program was supported by the Rene Vandeveld and Carl Auerhammer Postgraduate Scholarships from the College of Agriculture, and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Don Jaques Memorial Scholarship. After completing

his Ph.D., Parthiba worked as a post-doctoral fellow in the dry bean breeding program of the Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan.

Parthiba's research program at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research station in Morden will focus on the genetics, breeding and production of dry bean crops. For the first two years of his tenure, he will be supported by funding provided by the MPGA and AAFC's Matching Investment Initiative. He will be an integral part of a national team of pulse researchers including Ferdinand Kiehn in Morden, Hans-Henning Muendel in Lethbridge, Alberta and Soon Park, at AAFC's research centre in Harrow, Ontario.

AAFC's new Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) emphasizes the coordination of research and innovation efforts across governments, the sector and private research institutions to achieve maximum return on investments in the key areas of food safety, the environment, innovation and sustainable production. ■

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450 beans per can, Manitoba production alone is enough to provide every one of the 31.6 million Canadians with over 40 cans of beans. Worldwide, assuming a population of 6.3 billion, Manitoba produces enough dry beans to give each person on Earth 91 beans.

Although the facts show Manitoba's pulse production in 2003 is generally down from 2002, I hope this review has reinforced that we still produce a lot of pulses in Manitoba—just try counting them one-by-one or laying them end-to-end around the world a few times. ■

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*to be held*

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