

Letter from the editors...

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of the e-journal publication "*Prairie Soils and Crops: Scientific Perspectives for Innovative Management*". The theme of this issue is "**Significant Insect and Disease Threats: Background and Management**".

In issue #4, we have enlisted authors with extensive knowledge and expertise to review important Prairie insect and disease management topics. There are many insect and disease pests that threaten optimal crop production on the Canadian Prairies. We have chosen to highlight nine insect and nine disease pests in eighteen articles. However, we are not unaware that there are other pests that can cause significant crop damage that are not included here. Many management principles described herein will also apply to insects and diseases that were not considered in this issue.

We hope you find this insect and disease issue informative and useful. We are working on the fifth issue to be published in May, 2012. The issue will focus on the findings from various long-term cropping studies in Western Canada. We encourage you to email us your comments about the topics published to date and provide us with ideas and themes for future issues.

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