

# SUNFLOWER DESICCATION

Sunflowers are physiologically mature at the stage R-9. If a desiccant is applied prior to R-9, yield and quality can be sacrificed, and the crop may take longer to dry down.

To determine whether or not the crop has reached physiological maturity, look at the color of the head. As the plants senesce, the heads turn from green to yellow on the back of the sunflower heads (R-7) in late August. As drydown begins, a brown edge appears first at the tapered top of the bract. The bract tip turns brown at 40-50%. At this stage, seed moisture is too high and the plant has not reached physiological maturity. Gradually, a brown edge line develops down along the bract sides. When the bracts are brown, seed moisture is between 30-35%. The broadest part of the bract should be turning brown. It is at this stage that the seeds are between 30-35% moisture and desiccation can be performed.

**- National Sunflower Association of Canada**

Approximately 50% Seed Moisture.

<35% Moisture - shoulders of the bracts are starting to turn brown.



Photo courtesy of BASF.



Photo courtesy of National Sunflower Association.

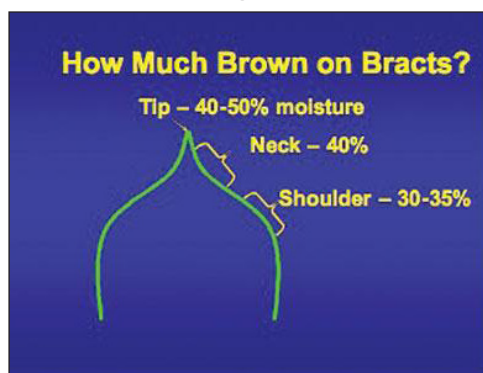


Image courtesy of National Sunflower Association of Canada.

