Ascochyta 2009 Field Tour Stops
Tuesday June 30, 2009

Stop 1. Spillman Agronomy Farm of Washington State University

USDA-ARS Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology Research Unit
Ascochyta blight nursery
Fungicide trials
Chickpea, Lentil, and Pea Breeding Programs

Stop 2. *Owner/Farmer and Host, Bill Clark of Pullman, WA*.

The group viewed a chickpea field of 800 acres. Variety planted was Sierra, a large seeded kabuli type chickpea developed by the USDA-ARS Breeders at Pullman, WA. Mr. Clark described the field statistics, planted on May 18th. His operation had grown chickpeas for over 10 years with great success. His disease management strategy depended on resistant cultivars, rotation into other crops, early detection and treatment, and a little luck. The Palouse weather pattern includes a July drought that shuts the disease down and makes the resistance in Sierra Chickpeas very effective.

Phil Hinrichs, Proprietor of Hinrichs Trading Company of Pullman, WA. Mr. Hinrichs discussed the markets for Chickpeas, the growth of the industry in the Palouse and the prices he might see over the next year. He thanked the researchers for their work in developing strategies to fight the disease.

Stop 3. *Greg Mader Farm, Host Dave McKeirnan of Pullman, WA*.

The group viewed some dry peas, planted on May 3rd. The variety was Cruiser, a private variety developed by Progene Research of Othello, WA. The peas are a fila type smooth green pea. The crop was not yet blooming. The field across the road had been treated with insecticide against pod weevil and aphid and the field viewed would be treated within the next few days. The crop was doing well but had been planted later than usual. Planting date made a great deal of difference, the crop across the road was the same variety planted a week earlier and it was in full bloom.

Pardina Lentils. The group viewed a field adjacent to the peas of Pardina lentils planted after the peas in May. Lentils were short due to the later than normal planting date. Pardinas are a small brown lentil of high quality. The variety was selected from cultivars received from Spain by USDA-ARS for its adaptation to the Palouse growing regions. Pardinas are treated with seed treatment (LSP-Thiabendazole) due to their susceptibility to Ascochyta Blight.