



# Pest Alert

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## WHEAT DISEASE MANAGEMENT MUST BEGIN NOW SEPTEMBER 6 VEGNET REPORT

### WHEAT DISEASE MANAGEMENT MUST BEGIN NOW

Believe it or not there are already fields planted! While I realize there must be some trade-off between moisture retention, blowing ground, and delayed planting for virus control, August was too early! Remember the principals of wheat virus disease control are:

#### **control volunteers and delay planting**

Conditions for volunteer wheat growth in much of the high plains has been very good, plenty of moisture. Volunteer wheat historically is the principal source for early infection by wheat streak, High Plains disease and barley yellow dwarf and other wheat viruses. Volunteer wheat is the "green bridge" for the virus vectors, other pests and disease organisms to carry over from one crop to the next. Most growers are getting into a planting mode and volunteers need to be controlled before the fall crop starts to emerge. Tillage and herbicides are the basic ways to control volunteer wheat. It is important to destroy volunteers within a 1/2 to 1 mile of the new crop at least two weeks prior to planting.

There was little virus in this year's crop because much of the wheat was planted late last year. There were a couple of exceptions to this where known susceptible wheat streak mosaic varieties were planted close to dryland corn. Corn is also a reservoir for the viruses and their vectors. As the move to increased dryland corn continues the potential for longer wheat streak mosaic, High Plains virus and their wheat curl mite vector survival in the fall increases.

Delayed planting provides a period between the removal of the green bridge (previous wheat and dryland or irrigated corn) and when the new crop comes up. If the wheat was planted too early it is emerging just as the virus vectors and other pests are migrating out of the volunteer or other sources. This is especially important for wheat streak mosaic virus and the new High Plains virus which are vectored by the wheat curl mite. Neither the viruses or their vector curl mite can survive without green tissue.

Continued wet conditions will help to delay planting but have encouraged volunteer growth. Variety consideration is critical in areas that are planted to a lot of dryland corn. (Brown)

## SEPTEMBER 6 VEGNET REPORT

During the last week, daily high temperatures averaged in the low to mid 80s at most sites in the region, except for Center in the mid 70s. During the last week, rainfall averaged less than one-quarter inch at most sites. Ault, Delta, Fort Morgan and Tribune averaged more than 0.5 inches; while Kersey, Peckham, and Torrington received more than 1 inch. More than 3 inches of rain fell in western Nebraska. The upcoming week is forecasted at average to above average moisture. Above average temperatures are forecasted for Colorado and Wyoming sites, while average temperatures are expected for Nebraska and Kansas sites.

Continue to scout late crops at least weekly for evidence of pest activity. Check with your local consultants and other experts on crop status and the initiation or maintenance of disease protection strategies when either disease is confirmed in the nearby region and/or a disease threat does exist. Remember to rotate fungicide chemistry when possible to avoid selection of fungicide-resistant strains.

### DRY BEAN Pests:

As of September 6, the dry bean crop continues to be harvested in most areas except where rains have caused problems lately. Pay attention to harvest operations to maximize seed quality and consumer acceptability by reducing seed-coat checks and splits during combining and handling.

### ONION Pests:

As of September 6, bacterial diseases still persist throughout the state and will carry over into harvest and storage. Fungicides like the EBDCs (Maneb, Mancozeb, Dithane, Penncozeb) tank mixed with copper based bactericides (Kocide, Champ, Nu Cop among others) continue to be effective when applied at full labeled rates with a non-ionic surfactant in sufficient gallonage.

Continue to scout fields weekly for early or renewed signs of disease in the field or region. Maintain applications of protectant fungicides including the EBDCs, coppers, Bravo and Rovral in high gallonage plus adjuvant for good coverage on a 7 to 10 day interval. Rotate fungicide chemistry every other application when possible.

If Downy Mildew reappears in the region, continue to include EBDCs and/or Ridomil tank mixes in the spray program. However, recent high temperatures have reduced the threat of serious damage by Downy Mildew. The west slope is experiencing a moderate to severe outbreak of Downy Mildew, as well as some bacterial diseases with the moist weather that they have been experiencing recently.

Botrytis Blast may appear as tip death and spotting on foliage, in addition to Neck Rot, and both diseases can be managed with the EBDC and Rovral type of fungicides applied on a 7 – 10 day schedule. Include Rovral in the last 1 – 2 sprays to reduce carryover of Botrytis spores from the field through harvest into the curing & storage shed.

As we approach harvest, remember that air curing in the field and storage shed is VITAL to remove sources of moisture from the neck tissue and outer scales, thereby reducing the ability of bacterial and fungal pathogens to colonize and infect bulbs in the field and during storage. Do NOT apply heat (air temperatures greater than 85 F) to onions within the first 5 – 7 days of curing; high temperatures may actually promote more damage from bacteria responsible for Bacterial Soft Rot and fungi responsible for Black Mold.

### POTATO Pests:

The Late Blight disease model has exceeded the threshold throughout Colorado, even assuming a late May emergence date with hours greater than 80 % relative humidity. The first report of Late Blight was confirmed August 5 in the San Luis Valley. In addition, late blight was confirmed last week on some late chipper fields in the Front Range of Colorado.

Maintain protectant sprays (EBDCs, Bravo, Polyram, Quadris, etc.) on a 5 to 7 day interval for Early Blight. If Late Blight is detected in your region, incorporate newer chemistry such as Acrobat, Curzate and others.

The majority of fields have been or soon will be desiccated in northeastern Colorado. Remember to thoroughly destroy foliage and potential sources of inoculum, which can threaten later maturing fields downwind. (Schwartz)

### **POLICY PAPER ON ROLE OF USE-RELATED INFORMATION PUBLISHED**

On July 14, 1999, EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing the availability of a draft document for public comment- The Role of Use-Related Information in Pesticide Risk Assessment and Risk Management. This paper is being released for a 60-day public comment period, as part of a process developed in conjunction with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) to ensure that EPA's policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation. The paper announced in this notice summarizes the types of use-related information used by EPA in risk assessment and risk management, where the data come from, and how the Agency employs these data.

The Federal Register notice includes questions on which EPA is particularly seeking comment. The paper is available through the OPP Docket and on the Internet at:  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/).

Comments can be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically as described in the Federal Register notices. The Federal Register notice is available electronically at [www.epa.gov/fedrgstr](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr). (McDonald)

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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

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