

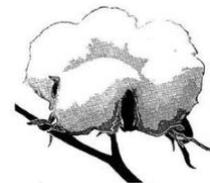
Jarette's Farm Journal

Jarette Hurry

February 2021



For more information regarding any of your farming needs, please feel free to contact the Bertie County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 794-5317. Your questions and comments are important to us.



What to do with Wheat

We have received over 24 inches of rain since wheat planting started back in October of 2020. Early planted wheat and wheat that has received nitrogen in-between these excessive rain events looks decent and still has some yield potential. However, there is some wheat that should be evaluated to see if the crop should become cover crop. Growers with less than 30 tillers per square foot and particularly those with only one well-formed tiller per plant need to assess whether the crop has enough potential to meet the needs on their farm. These are fields where producers could consider full season bean, corn, or cotton as an alternative if there is not a lot of money invested already. Please feel free to contact me if you'd like help evaluating your wheat crop.

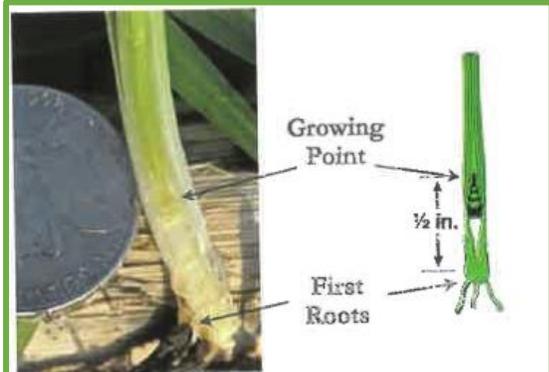


Figure 8-2. Wheat stem cross-section at growth stage 30. The growing point will be dark green, about 1/8-inch long, look like a tiny pine cone, and prior to growth state 30 be at the very base of the stem next to the first roots. At growth stage 30 it will have moved 1/2-inch up the stem.

Growth Stage 30: The Important time to Apply Nitrogen

Growth stage 30 is when small grains switch from producing tillers, to reproductive growth. Nitrogen at this stage of development is critical and larger amounts of N are needed to satisfy N requirements. A typical fertilizer application rate at growth stage 30 is 80 to 120 pounds per acre (minus what was applied in January or February).

The calendar date when wheat reaches growth stage 30 is influenced by variety, planting date, and environmental conditions. Early varieties can reach GS 30 in late February while late varieties may not reach GS 30 until mid-March. The best way to tell if wheat is at GS 30 is to pull up several plants and split the stems down their centers all the way to the base. At GS 30 the growing point will have moved 1/2-inch up the stem see figure.

Remember to stay on the lookout for Wheat Pest and Diseases

Cereal leaf beetle can be a major insect pest of wheat. The population usually peaks between mid-April and early May. Beetles prefer areas of the field with thin stands and fields that were planted late. Eggs laid by adult beetles are about 1/32-inch-long and are easy to spot with little experience. The eggs are elliptical in shape and laid singly or in groups on the upper leaf surface, often along the mid vein. The larval stage, which does the most damage to small grains is a shiny black larva with mucous and fecal matter on its back.

Threshold is 25 eggs and /or larvae per 100 stems (tillers)

If the proportion of eggs is higher than the larvae count scout again in 5 days. Treat when 50% or more of the eggs have hatched. This insect is fairly easy to control and only requires one insecticide application since there is only 1 generation per year. Several insecticides are labeled for cereal leaf beetle.

Army Worms are a sporadic pest of wheat that may appear from late April to mid May. On sunny days they will most often be found under residue. On cloudy days it may be found on the stems of the plants feeding on the foliage or stem itself. A good indicator of activity is the presence of feces on the ground. Also look for feeding damage on the plants and heads lying on the ground. This pest begins feeding at the bottom of plants and works its way upward until it cuts the stem just below the head. **Threshold is two 3/8 inch or longer worms per square foot. Several insecticides are labeled for Armyworms.**

Powdery Mildew is possibly the most common disease found in wheat and is usually most active in thick lush areas of the field. Cool and rainy weather will enhance the development of this disease. Temperatures in the range of 59 - 75° F favor powdery mildew infestation and development. The disease is slowed significantly when temperatures are above 77°F. **Susceptible varieties should be sprayed when 5 -10% of the upper leaves are covered with powdery mildew.** (Tilt, Propimax, etc.) are generally the most cost effective.

Leaf Rust has characteristic red -orange pustules approximately the size of a pinhead that can be found on wheat leaves. Leaf rust develops rapidly at temperatures between 60-80°F. **Apply a fungicide when rust covers 1-3% of the upper leaves.** Most fungicides labeled for wheat will control this disease.

Head Scab

Head Scab infections are influenced by weather in April and early May. Beginning in mid- April you should check the scab risk forecasting website <http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>. The site allows you to see if the risk of developing head scab is high. If the risk is high and you do not have a variety with moderate resistance, it is wise to apply a fungicide for scab control. **The most effective fungicides for head scab are Caramba, Prosaro, Proline and Miravis Ace SE. Application of these fungicides for scab control are only effective at flowering. Do not apply strobilurins such as Quadris and Headline close to flowering as they may increase DON levels.**

2020 Cotton Yield Contest

Congratulations to our Bertie County Cotton Yield Contest Winners!

1 st Place	Farless & Sons	1086.5 lbs on 1664.8 acres
2 nd Place	Log Landing Farms	1063.4 lbs on 66.2 acres

Private Pesticide Applicators & Commercial Applicators

The Bertie County Extension office will be conducting a **Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training for (V) (Safety Class) – (Private Applicators Only)**. Due to the pandemic the training will be scheduled on four different dates as we are only allowed to have a total of ten (10) people in attendance at one time. **It is imperative you call to schedule which day and time you will be attending so that we make sure we comply.** Private pesticide applicators whose certification expires December 31, 2021 must complete 2 hours of safety (V) and 2 hours of specialized training (X) training by September 30, 2021.

The dates are:

March 9 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 11 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 16 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 18 th	9am - 11am	ONLY	

The training will be held at the Windsor Community Building located at 201 South Queen Street in Windsor.

Note: Please check your mail as we have sent out a memo to all that need to attend. If you have any questions concerning the above training or would like to register please give us a call at (252) 794-5317.



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