

# AGRONOMY NEWS

Grasslands For Tomorrow



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## Decision Time: Weed and Disease Control in Winter Wheat

Blake Vander Vorst

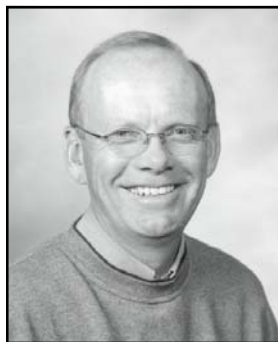
It is time to hone your weed and disease identification skills as the pesticide application season is upon us. Identification of the weeds present is important in determining the timing and right product or products to use to minimize cost.

A good stand of vigorous winter wheat can generally compete with the annual grass weeds. My experience has revealed to me that wild oat is not a problem unless there is a poor winter wheat stand or poor vigor due to inadequate fertility. However, given that statement, please check for the unexpected heavy and early wild oat infestation and be on the lookout for downy brome and cheat grass. There is a post emergence product for cheat grass control but it does carry over and limits the following year's crop selection.

Consideration should be given to tank mixing a fungicide with the herbicide for winter wheat leaf disease control. Some growers are routinely adding 1 to 2 ounces of **Tilt** fungicide with their broadleaf herbicide when they have planted their winter wheat into the prior year's spring wheat stubble. I would suggest that leaf spotting also be present, as well as, moisture conditions that are conducive for disease development. (Syngenta's lowest labeled rate for Tilt is 2 ounces.) Bayer also has a new product called Stratego that can be tank mixed for leaf disease control.

Winter wheat planted in canola, flax and oat stubble has generally not required a fungicide at the vegetative growth stages. However, scouting before spraying is important to make that decision.

Many growers in the eastern Dakotas with winter wheat planted in spring wheat stubble are applying a low rate of fungicide with their herbicide and then following it with another fungicide application at early heading. This treatment was the highest yielding in Tilt fungicide plots at Lisbon, ND in 2001 as reflected in the Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 2002, Agronomy News newsletter from DU. If you were to invest in only one fungicide treatment during the growing season, applying it at flag leaf to early heading stages would be the preferential time, with stage of application



Blake Vander Vorst  
Regional Agronomist  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
2525 River Road  
Bismarck, ND 58503-9011  
701-355-3533  
Cell: 701-391-2251



Roger Knapp,  
DU Field Agronomist  
Wild Rice Soil Conservation Dist.  
8991 Hwy 32 North  
Forman, ND 58032-9702  
701-724-3247 Ext. 115  
701-678-4311 (Mobile)

dependent on how early and rapidly leaf diseases are developing. Consideration should also be given to scab control in determining the time of application.

Winter Wheat varieties generally have a higher yield potential and are more susceptible to leaf diseases than their spring wheat cousin. As a result, the payback on fungicide applications to flag leaf to early heading winter wheat is usually greater. There are a number of fungicide products available depending on the growth stage of the winter wheat at application.

\* \* \*

## Winter Cereal Project Expansion

Ducks Unlimited has expanded its project area with the addition of **Dickey County**, North Dakota. Dickey County farmers will be eligible to receive the agronomy assistance of Roger Knapp and receive incentive payments for including a winter cereal in their rotation.

DU has added Dickey County because of the density of Pintails that have been found in the county based on Fish and Wildlife Service surveys. Pintail is one of the species of ducks whose population has not responded to the increased water conditions of the 1990's. The county has a good density of wetlands and a majority of its land use is cropland.

The James River SCD, the NRCS and Gene Elhard, Extension Agent, have been very helpful in guiding DU's expansion to work with farmers in Dickey County. Blake Vander Vorst, DU Regional Agronomist, will also be looking to cooperate with farmers and local agricultural suppliers to conduct demonstration trials with winter cereals and no-till.

### Agronomy News

Editors: Blake Vander Vorst,  
Helen Tessmann

Phone: (701) 355-3533  
E-mail: [bvandervorst@ducks.org](mailto:bvandervorst@ducks.org)

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Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
2525 River Road  
Bismarck, ND 58503-9011

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*South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks*

*Syngenta Crop Protection*

*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

*Day, Marshall, James River, Ransom and Wild Rice  
Conservation Districts*

*North Dakota Dept. of Health 319 Program*

*NDSU and SDSU Cooperative  
Extension Service*

## Important Dates

**May 31, 2002** – SDCIA - **Field Inspection  
Application deadline** for Small Grains

June 14-15, 2002 – Horsch-Anderson Field Day  
and Educational Program – Andover, SD

**June 15, 2002** – ND State Seed Department –  
**Field Inspection Application deadline**  
for Small Grains

June 27, 2002 – Dakota Lakes Research Farm  
Field Day – Pierre, SD

June 27, 2002 – USDA-ARS and Area IV SCDs  
Field Day – Mandan, ND

July 1, 2002 – SDSU Northeast South Dakota  
Research Station Tour – Watertown, SD

July 9, 2002 – SDSU Off-station Field Trial Tour  
– Selby, SD

**July 11, 2002** – **NDSU CREC Off-station Field  
Trial Tour, 7.5 miles south of Lisbon,  
ND, 7:00 p.m.**

July 16, 2002 – NDSU Res/Ext Center Field Day  
– Carrington, ND

July 17, 2002 – NDSU North Central Res/Ext  
Center Field Day – Minot, ND

July 17, 2002 – Logan County SCD No-till  
Demonstration Farm Tour, Napoleon,

## **Demonstration and Research Trials**

The Ducks Unlimited winter cereals project is involved with a number of on-farm demonstrations and research trials. The following is a listing of the trials that DU has organized or is participating in for the 2002 cropping season:

SDSU - Winter Wheat Variety Crop  
Performance Trial, Prairie Ag Research,  
Britton, SD

NDSU - Carrington Res/Ext Center Off-station  
Variety Trial, Mairs Farm, Lisbon, ND  
(HRSW and Barley)

NDSU - Winter Wheat Variety Crop  
Performance Trial, Mairs Farm, Lisbon, ND

NDSU - Winter Wheat Variety X Fungicide Trial,  
Mairs Farm, Lisbon, ND

Winter Wheat Variety Demo - Pat Freeberg,  
Lisbon, ND

Conservation Cropping Systems Project - No-till  
Crop Rotation Study, Forman, ND

HRSW Amount and Time of Nitrogen  
Application Demo - Marty Visto, Lisbon, ND

Dormant and Spring Seeded Canola Demo -  
Curt Foster, Britton, SD

Winter Wheat Variety Demo - Horsch-Anderson  
Mfg., Andover, SD

Winter Wheat Variety Demo - Tople Farms,  
Langford, SD

The three NDSU trials at the Mairs farm and the Freeberg site will be toured on July 11, 2002 at 7:00 p.m., 7.5 miles south of Lisbon on Highway 32. The Horsch-Anderson demonstration will be toured on June 14 and 15, 2002.

Please call Blake Vander Vorst or Roger Knapp if you would like more information on these sites.