

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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Volunteer Wheat

As wheat planting has started it is important to remember to ensure the destruction of all volunteer wheat. The majority of the Kansas wheat crop will be planted over the next 6 weeks, as weather permits. So, now is the time to start eradicating all volunteer. Remember, it does not take much volunteer wheat to produce large numbers of wheat pests, i.e. wheat curl mites, Hessian flies, wheat aphids, winter grain mites, brown wheat mites, etc. Many wheat pathogens also take advantage of volunteer wheat as a harborage until the planted wheat germinates. When corn, sorghum, and soybeans are harvested it opens up patches for volunteer to germinate, so these areas need to be monitored also. All volunteer wheat within about three miles of planted fields should be dead at least two weeks prior to the planted wheat germinating. This will reduce the wheat pests and then, if wheat planting can be delayed as long as agronomically feasible it will also help reduce the vulnerability of the wheat to all of these pests.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

<http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html>

Eva Zurek

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Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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