



YADKIN COUNTY DECEMBER 2013 CROPS NEWSLETTER

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Agriculture— Field Crops

Our New Website: <http://yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu>



Hessian Fly

Around this time of the year, Hessian fly adults begin to become active. The time of peak activity can vary from year to year. For example, in the fall of 2010, Hessian fly was active from mid-November to mid-December. Last year (2012), Hessian fly pressure was heaviest around the end of November to the beginning of December. Without scouting eggs, you will be just guessing as to whether or not Hessian fly is in your field. Our NC State recommendations are that you should only spray if you've had historical problems with Hessian fly, planted early, did not use an insecticidal seed treatment, and have a susceptible variety. In the vast majority of these cases, using one of these management tactics will effectively manage Hessian fly. There are certain situations where multiple tactics are needed to prevent yield loss. These are only under the heaviest pressure situations and should be based on your past experience with this pest.

Also remember the point of the spray is kill to adult flies, with the hope of some residual to kill flies that may attack in the future. Sprays may have some efficacy on larvae as they hatch from the eggs, but this has never been demonstrated with research and is open to question. Once larvae reach the base of the plant, they remain protected from foliar insecticide sprays. Results are best when sprayed at the 2-3 leaf stage of wheat, or slightly before. Use the highest labeled rate of your choice of pyrethroid. For more information on Hessian fly you can view this video at the link provided.

The link provided. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4WnuXs0QGc>

Inside This Issue

- Hessian Fly
- Italian Ryegrass Control In Wheat
- Axial XL
- Is N Application Over Winter Necessary?
- Calendar Of Events

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Italian Ryegrass Control In Wheat

Italian Ryegrass is a widespread problem in small grains in North Carolina. Research has shown that wheat yields are reduced 0.4 percent for every ryegrass plant per square yard. Heavy infestations, if uncontrolled, can reduce yields by 75 percent or more. Management of this weed has become more complex with evolution of resistance to commonly used herbicides. There are currently no control programs for Italian ryegrass in oats or rye. These crops should not be planted in ryegrass-infested fields unless significant yield reduction is acceptable.

Growers typically like to delay application until February or March in an effort to let all the ryegrass emerge before treatment. Delayed applications are usually problematic. First, larger ryegrass is more difficult to kill. Second, dense stands of ryegrass are very competitive with small grains. Even though larger ryegrass maybe controlled adequately, dense stands can adversely affect small grains prior to herbicide application. Small grains will not recover from severe early season competition. Temperature has a significant impact on herbicide activity on ryegrass. Better activity is obtained with post-emergence herbicides under warmer temperatures. Nighttime temperatures should be above 35 degrees F for three days before and three days after application.



Empowering People • Providing Solutions



Axial XL



Axial XL, containing the active ingredient pinoxaden, is registered for post emergence application to wheat and barley from the two-leaf stage up to pre-boot stage. The mode of action is inhibition of the ACCase enzyme, the same mode of action as Hoelon. It should be applied to ryegrass in the one to five-leaf stage and prior to the third tiller emergence. An adjuvant is not necessary with Axial XL. Axial XL controls ryegrass, but has no activity on annual bluegrass or broadleaf weeds. See the label for specifics on carrier volume and other application variables.

Is N Application Over Winter Necessary?

Late January to early February is the time to determine if the small grain crop has enough tillers to optimize yield. This is a very important decision. Apply N in January or February only if tiller densities are less than 50 tillers per square foot. If N is not needed, applying N in January or February could result in an increased risk of freeze damage, disease, lodging, and reduced yield. If tillering is low, however, an early application of N can help to stimulate further tiller development in the last few weeks before growth stage 30, resulting in higher yield and profit.



During growth stage 30, small grains switch from producing tillers, to starting reproductive growth. In the first phase of reproductive growth, the stem elongates, the plant gets taller, and the small grain crop begins to take up large amounts of N. The future grain head is formed at this stage, and N stress at this growth stage will affect head formation and result in smaller heads. Since N at this stage of development is critical and larger amounts of N are needed to satisfy N requirements, the bulk of spring N fertilizer needs to be applied at this stage.

A typical fertilizer application rate at growth stage 30 for wheat is 80 to 120 pounds N per acre (minus any that was applied in late January or early February to stimulate tillering). However, optimal N rates can vary dramatically from field to field and year to year depending on the weather, the crop's yield potential, and the presence of carry-over N from previous crops. Tissue testing at growth stage 30 is one way to help fine-tune N rates to maximize economic return.

Calendar of Events

Corn/Tobacco Production Meeting

Forsyth County Extension Center
January 21, 2014, 10 am– 1 pm
Please call 336-703-2850 to register

Pesticide Safety “V” Training

Surry County Extension Office
February 19, 9am—11am
Please call 336-401-8025 to register

Grain Production Meeting

Corn, Soybean and Small Grain
February 11, 2014, 9am —11am
Forbush Fire Dept, Forbush NC
Please call 336-679-2061 to register

Tobacco Production Meeting

February 12, 2014, 10 am —12:30pm
Elkin Center of Surry Community College
Please call 336-679-2061 to register

Pesticide Safety “V” Training

Yadkin County Commissioner's Room
February 19, 2pm —4 pm
Please call 336-679-2061 to register

