



## CropLinks May 22, 2018

### Winter Wheat – Your flag leaf is showing!

In the valley, the flag leaf has emerged on the week-end on winter wheat. Mountain fields and the rest of Nova Scotia, I suspect, will see the flag leaf before this week is over. Why is this significant?

There are a few management decisions that you need to be aware of:

**Fungicide:** This is a critical time to get a fungicide on to protect the flag leaf from leaf disease such as rust, septoria and powdery mildew. If you have been managing nitrogen rate on the conservative side and practicing a good crop rotation you may decide to forgo the fungicide application. This group of chemistry works very well as a protectant, but is very poor at eradicating a disease after you have a problem. You have to make this decision based on cropping history, your management, the disease pressure in the field and your gut instinct.

Please refer to the [April issue](#) of Croplinks for product choice.

**Growth regulator:** I'm not a big fan of growth regulators in every case but I believe they do have their fit. Maybe you have over applied nitrogen on early-planted wheat, on a variety known for big straw production and the field is looking scary green; then a growth regulator may fit your system. The other fit for growth regulators is if you don't own your own combine and are dependent on a custom combine operator to show up. If the custom operator gets delayed, often lodging losses escalate. These can be decreased with a growth regulator. With the appearance of the flag leaf your window for applying a growth regulator is rapidly decreasing.

Ethrel must be applied when most of the tillers are between early flag leaf emergence to swollen-boot stage (Zadoks stages 37 to 45). Do not apply ETHREL Plant Growth Regulator after more than 10% of the awns have emerged (Zadoks 49) or you are risking injury and yield reduction.

Manipulator must be applied between Zadoks Growth Stages (GS) 12 (the 2-leaf stage) to 39 (the flag leaf collar visible stage).

**Gordon (Sonny) Murray**

Field Crops Specialist

Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc.

902-670-4892

[smurray@perennia.ca](mailto:smurray@perennia.ca)