



CropLinks May 31, 2018

Winter Wheat Update: Boot Stage to Head Emergence

Staging: On the early fields in the valley, we will see the head emerge by the end of the week-end. After checking some late fields in the Truro area earlier in the week, I would say they are about 10 days away from head emergence. For those chasing Fusarium Head Blight control this is a critical time. Fusarium Head Blight is at the highest risk of infection when periods of high humidity, rainfall, heavy dews and night time temperatures above 10 degrees and moderate day time temperatures coincide with bloom. Timing of the fungicide application for the control of Fusarium Head Blight is very important. **You want to apply your Fusarium product when 75% of the heads on the main stems are fully emerged from the leaf sheath.**



Head fully emerged: time to spray for Fusarium

To help with your timing, generally you have three days from when the wheat head is just emerging from the boot to when it is fully emerged.



Late boot stage: Head is visible, three days until the head is fully emerged.

Knowing when it is too late: Late applications of fungicide will decrease infections that take place on the late emerging tillers and secondary florets on the main stem. But most of your yield comes from main stems and primary florets.

When the wheat has finished flowering you will know you are through the infection window. Sprays at this time have very little economic payback.



Anthers drying up and falling off signals the end of wheat flowering.

Other application tips: Apply fungicide in a minimum of 10 gallons/ac of water. You will want to use coarse droplets under lower pressure. Bi-directional (backwards and forward facing nozzles) give much better head coverage. These nozzles tend to coat the head from both directions, rather than drive the spray down into the canopy missing the target.

It is also important to note that most fungicides for Fusarium Head Blight also control leaf diseases. Please see the [April Croplinks Newsletter](#) for product selection.

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