October 6, 2017 No 27

Volunteer Wheat

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Volunteer Wheat

Wheat is, and will continue to be planted throughout south central and north central Kansas over the next few weeks, as weather permits. So, this is the best, and last, chance to control all volunteer wheat, which should be destroyed at least 2 weeks prior to planting the 2018 crop. Volunteer wheat hasn’t been as persistent as in 2016, mainly because of the numerous rains that occurred in 2016 vs. this past year which has been drier. However, there is still plenty of volunteer around and it just doesn’t take much wheat to support huge numbers of pests. Wheat curl mites and Hessian flies are the arthropods most reliant on volunteer wheat as a ‘green bridge’. In addition, many pathogens are also able to utilize volunteer wheat as a reservoir until it is able to infect a vector and is then transferred to cultivated plants. Thus, eliminating this green bridge prior to planting along with delaying planting as long as possible, will go a long way toward reducing arthropod pests and pathogens in the newly planted wheat.
For more information on the Best Pest Management planting date as well as other pre-planting decisions, please see the 2017 Wheat Insect Management Guide: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf745.pdf

Jeff Whitworth                     Holly Schwarting

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report
http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html

Eva Zurek
Sincerely,

Jeff Whitworth
Extension Specialist
Field Crops
phone: 785/532-5656
e-mail: jwhitwor@ksu.edu

Holly Schwarting
Research Associate
Phone: (785) 532-4730
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

Eva Zurek
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4710
e-mail: ezurek@ksu.edu

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact LOCAL NAME, PHONE NUMBER. (For TDD, contact Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 785-532-4807.)

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, John D. Floros, Director.