

Warning, Diseases May Take A Bite Out Of Wheat Profits In 2008

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The best time for application of fungicides to wheat will be here soon. Most of the upper Midsouth wheat will be at split-boot stage of growth by late-April and that is the time to apply a fungicide. Soon after the split-boot stage of growth, the wheat head will emerge from the boot and flowering will begin, and it is illegal to apply a fungicide to wheat after bloom starts. These fungicides are for control of wheat leaf and head diseases. Diseases such as leaf and stem rust, Septoria leaf and glume blotch, powdery mildew, and tan spot can reduce wheat yield, test weight, and ultimately reduce value of the grain and profits for mid-south farmers. Fungicides applied at the split-boot stage of wheat growth will provide protection against most of these diseases. These diseases will not develop in all wheat fields so each field must be scouted separately during the boot to split-boot

stage of growth to determine if a fungicide is needed.

Some fungicides labeled for application to wheat up to the time wheat begins to bloom include Headline (BASF), Stratego (Bayer), PropiMax (Dow), Quadris (Syngenta), Quilt (Syngenta), and Tilt (Syngenta). One application of one of these fungicides at split-boot stage of wheat growth should be sufficient to protect the wheat from yield-robbing foliar diseases this spring.

More information about wheat disease management is available at your county extension office and is posted on the Delta Center Web Page (aes.missouri.edu/delta). Following these suggested procedures will give wheat farmers a better chance of producing high yields and profit in 2008. Δ

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