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Wheat Plot Results

The 2016 Meadowlark Extension District Wheat Plot results are now posted online. You can find them on the Meadowlark Extension District webpage at: www.meadowlark.ksu.edu under the Crops & Soils link. Variety information shared at the tour is also available at this site.

After a tough start, the stand thickened up and yields were beyond expectation. Stripe rust damage was limited to the most susceptible varieties and Fusarium Head Blight (head scab) incidence was fairly low despite rainy conditions during flowering. The plot average (eight entries and three check strips) was just over 80 bushels per acre.

The plot results include yield, harvest moisture, test weight, and yield as a percent of test average. Reminder: when using these results, do so in combination with multiple data sources, including results from the Kansas Crop Performance Test (KSCPT) trials. This is a non-replicated strip trial, so comparison to other yield results is encouraged. Replicated KSCPT test results can be obtained at: <http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/services/crop-performance-tests/winter-wheat/2016-wheat-performance-tests.html> or from your local Extension Office. Special thanks to Doug and Leonard Edelman for hosting this variety plot!

Squash Bug Control

Finding an insect in your garden is seldom welcome, but one of the most unwelcome has to be the squash bug!

Squash bugs (nymphs and adults) use piercing-sucking mouthparts to extract plant fluids from leaves, stems, vines, and fruits. Damage starts out as small, yellow specks that eventually turn brown. Vine and stem feeding leads to wilting, followed by darkening and drying of leaves. Heavy feeding early in the season may kill seedlings and delay plant growth, but even large plants might wilt under hot/dry conditions – or be killed if population levels are high enough. Direct feeding on fruit causes distortion, scarring, and sunken areas that reduce storage life. They also transmit the bacterium that causes cucurbit yellow vine disease (CYVD).

Control options include biological controls (other insects), physical removal, exclusion (possible with some effort!), trap plants, and insecticides. Control options and further information about squash bugs is available from our KSU Squash Bug publication available from your District Office or online at:

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3308.pdf> .

From an insecticide standpoint, there is an interesting 2005 study conducted by Ohio State University that compared the effectiveness of various biorational and natural products to more traditional pesticides with squash bugs as one of the focus insects. Researchers compared the effectiveness of products on young nymphs, old nymphs and adults.

The results were very interesting! For example, they found that Spinosad containing products were very effective on young and old nymphs, with efficacy declining significantly for adults. Other products, like pyrethrin containing compounds provided moderate control of younger insects and were more effective on adults. Permethrins, on the other hand, were moderately effective on nymphs, but lost effectiveness for adults. You can find the complete study at: <http://entomology.osu.edu/welty/pdf/VegIPMReport2005.pdf> or by request from your District Extension Office.