

To: Local News  
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### **Wheat Seed Treatment**

Seed treatments are an important part of wheat production in Kansas. An updated version of the K-State publication MF2955, *Seed Treatment Fungicides for Wheat Disease Management 2023* is now available at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF2955.pdf>. This updated publication features updated product efficacy information, recommendations for setting seed treatment priorities, considerations for seed treatment success, a key to common seed treatment active ingredients, and a list of some of the more common seed treatments labeled for use in Kansas. Most seed treatments available for wheat in Kansas include one or more fungicide active ingredients to prevent seedborne fungal diseases (common bunt, loose smut, flag smut) as well as soilborne seedling diseases which may result in poor emergence or damping off. These products may also provide early-season suppression of foliar diseases like powdery mildew and rusts. These products may provide suppression of root and foot rots but will not provide full season control against spring infections. Some products also contain insecticides like imidacloprid or thiamethoxam for early-season control of aphids, wireworms, and other insect pests. It is important to note that seed treatments will only provide protection from diseases and pests for approximately 30-45 days after planting. Fusarium head blight (scab) in northwest Kansas: Fusarium head blight is a serious disease that can result in direct yield loss, discounts, and rejections due to mycotoxin accumulation, and loss of seed viability. Seed saved from fields with Fusarium head blight may face emergence issues in the fall. In 2023, there were higher-than-normal levels of Fusarium head blight in northwest Kansas due to untimely rainfall while wheat was flowering. Loose smut control and common bunt, sometimes called, “stinking smut”, can be controlled very effectively with most commercial treatments. If you are planning to keep seed that is known to have or has been exposed to common bunt, it is critical to use a fungicide seed treatment or to purchase certified seed to avoid problems in the future.

### **Sugarcane Aphids**

Sugarcane (sorghum) aphids were first detected migrating into Kansas in mid-July this year. So far, they have been reported in a south-central to north-central corridor from the Oklahoma border to Ellis County on the west to Geary County on the east, and south of I-70. They are probably north of I-70, but we have not received any verification yet. According to entomologist Dr. J.P. Michaud, the colonies are small and scattered but a few have gotten large. Fortunately, the beneficials are also plentiful. Therefore, please continue to monitor for these aphids because, if past history is any indication, they will continue to migrate into Kansas until late September/early October. The current status of the SA (now called sorghum aphid) can be found at: <https://www.myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid>. There are several similar aphid species on sorghum that could be confused with sorghum aphids especially when the aphids are young. The sorghum aphid has a smooth body with a light-colored head and light-colored legs with dark feet. They have dark-colored, short cornicles (tail pipes) with no shading at the base of them as on the corn leaf aphid, which are blue-green aphids that have purplish patches around their cornicles along with a rectangular body. Plants are vulnerable to infestation by SA at any growth stage, but Kansas sorghum is most at risk from the boot stage onward. The ability of sugarcane aphids to overwinter on Johnsongrass and re-sprouting sorghum stubble represents

challenges to the management of this pest in more southerly regions. It is best practice to scout late-planted fields, as these are more susceptible to yield loss and aphids and this a bigger window for aphids to build to damaging levels later in the season. Also, prioritize fields that were planted to susceptible varieties. Once a week, walk 25 feet into the field and examine plants along 50 feet of row. If honeydew is present, look for SA on the underside of a leaf above the honeydew. Inspect the underside of leaves from the upper and lower canopy from 15–20 plants per location. If sorghum aphids are found on lower or mid-canopy leaves, begin twice-a-week scouting. You can download a free sorghum aphid scouting guide here: <https://www.myfields.info/sites/default/files/page/ScoutCard%20KSU%20v05312017.pdf>. For ongoing current information on the sorghum aphid in Kansas, check out the My Fields website often in the coming weeks and months: <https://www.myfields.info/pests/sugarcane-aphid>.