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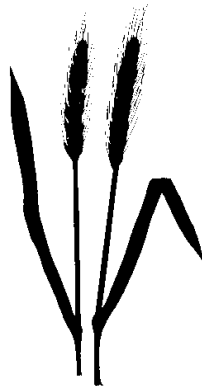
July 2012

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**Wheat Variety and Performance &  
Recommendations**



It seems early to start talking about wheat varieties and planting in the dead of summer, but there are some issues that may need to be addressed now in preparation for the fall planting. The 2012 North Carolina Measured Crop Performance Small Grains green book is hot off the press and available in the Extension Office or can be viewed on line at <http://www.ncovt.com>.

The Small Grain Production Guide 2011-12 is also available at the Extension Office. With the attractive price for wheat, it is anticipated that planted acreage will be up significantly this fall. This may result in shortages of wheat seed and especially the higher yielding varieties this year. Growers may want to contact their seedsmen to reserve specific varieties. Enclosed in this newsletter are the 2012 Wheat Variety Performance and Recommendations from Dr. Randy Weisz, NCSU, which may assist you in choosing the right varieties for this years planting.

## Grain Sorghum Insects

Early planted Grain Sorghum is heading now or will be very shortly. At this time our major insect pest to be concerned about in grain sorghum is the corn earworm. The corn earworm attacks the head and feeds on the developing seed from flowering to maturity just as it does in corn. Fortunately, the worms are very exposed and applications of insecticide should work very well.

Fields should be scouted to confirm the presents of worms. Using a bucket large enough to fit the head, shake the head in the bucket and check for the presents of worms. A white bucket will probably make it easier to see the worms. These insects have several generations per year and populations increase throughout the season. Consequently, the risk of corn ear worm damage greatly increases in later plantings. After sorghum begins to bloom, inspect fields once or twice a week. Sample by shaking heads over a bucket and counting larvae. Sample 30-50 panicles (heads) per field. Treat when a total of one or more larvae (1/2 inch or longer) of corn earworm and fall armyworm occur per head. Apply any of the pyrethroids labeled for grain sorghum at the high labeled rates for resistance management and extended residual control.

## Cotton Insects

This could be a big year for stink bugs in cotton and perhaps soybean. In some areas we appear to have a perfect storm of high background levels of stink bugs that developed on wheat and other hosts, a high proportion of brown as opposed to green stink bugs, and very attractive and susceptible cotton plants. Cotton fields are in the 3rd to 5th week of bloom, or "stink bug crunch time" when moderate damage cannot be tolerated and the protective 10% damaged boll threshold is recommended. Check 1-inch diameter or quarter-sized bolls for internal damage. Remember to count even slight warting and/or subtle lint staining as a damaged boll. Subtle damage simply means that the damage has occurred recently; this translates into a treatment for a resident stink bugs bug population, not a treatment for old damage.

Insecticide control options for stink bugs, particularly brown stink bugs are Bidrin and Bidrin-containing combinations. Bidrin is very effective against brown stink bugs. However, we should all be reminded that the active ingredient dicotophos is very toxic to humans and a 6-day reentry interval and appropriate safety safeguards must be observed. Also this material provides no caterpillar activity. Of the pyrethroids, bifenthrin (materials like Declare, Brigade and Discipline) are very effective for brown stink bugs. While the other pyrethroids in general are less effective. Adding acephate to a pyrethroid helps with brown stink bug control and lower rates of Bidin plus a pyrethroid is another effective option for stink bugs and provides bollworm control. If green stink bugs predominate, a number of insecticides, including pyrethroids, pyrethroid/chloronic combinations like Endigo and Brigadier, are also effective. Do not use chloronics like Admire Pro, Centric, or Belay alone for stink bugs.

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In addition to stink bugs, it appears we are very close to the major bollworm fight to get started in cotton. Blacklight traps to the south of us are beginning to pickup higher numbers of moths. Our backlight trap in Wayne County monitored by Willie Howell, is beginning to show an increase in moths as well. You can check the Wayne County black light trap by going to:

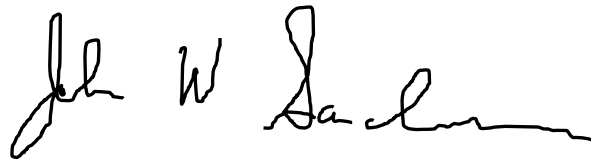
<http://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/2012/07/black-light-trap-insect-counts-in-cotton-2012-3/>

## **Upcoming Events:**

- August 7, 2012—Grain Sorghum Field Day, Stick Cameron's Farm, 13676 McDougald Road, Sanford, NC, no registration required.
- August 9, 2012—Weed Resistance Field Day, 4:00 p.m., Parks Farms in Seven Springs—Mount Olive, call the Extension office at 919-731-1521 to register.
- September 12, 2012—Cotton Field Day, Coastal Plains Research Station, Rocky Mount, NC, no registration required.
- September 27, 2012—Pesticide Recertification Class, Subclass V (Safety), 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at the Wayne Center, call the Extension office at 919-731-1521 to register.
- September 27, 2012—Pesticide Recertification Class, Subclasses A, B, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, T, D, X, 1:00—3:00 p.m. at the Wayne Center, call the Extension office at 919-731-1521 to register.

**NEWS BRIEF:** Remember if you have a private pesticide license that expires 12/31/12, you must complete your recertification classes by 09/30/12. You will need to obtain 2 hours of X and 2 hours of V training before 09/30/12. If you have questions regarding your pesticide credits, call us at 919-731-1521.

*I am pleased to be able to provide you this educational information.*



**John W. Sanderson**  
**Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical.

For assistance, contact an agent from North Carolina Cooperative Extension.