

FUSARIUM HEAD BLIGHT OR HEAD SCAB



Description: Head scab is identified as dead, bleached-out florets on affected heads scattered throughout the field. Generally only a portion of the florets die whereas other florets on the head remain green. During periods of high humidity, salmon-pink colored spores form on the margin of glumes of individual florets. Towards the end of the season, small black fruiting bodies (perithecia) may develop on affected heads. Seed from affected heads are lightweight and shriveled, with a white to pinkish coloration, and are contaminated with vomitoxin.

Location: Throughout Ohio.

Time of attack: Wheat plants are most susceptible during the flowering stage of the plant (late May to early June). Wet, warm weather during this time generally means high disease levels.

Management:

- Resistant varieties
- Crop rotation with non-cereal crop
- Do not plant wheat after corn
- Till residues
- Integrated management with resistant varieties, triazole-based fungicide, crop rotation, and tillage

