SMALL GRAINS FIELD DAY - MAY 16

The Small Grains Field Day will focus this year on how to reduce risk from late freeze injury on small grains. This is a very timely issue, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. The Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will be providing transportation to the event in Salisbury, leaving the Extension Center at 6 a.m. If you would like to attend this field day, please contact me at 671-3276 by Monday, May 14, so I can arrange for adequate transportation.

Dr. Randy Weisz
Small Grain Specialist

There has been tremendous concern about the small grains crop this year following the Easter freeze. This is the second time in the past six years that we have had what was supposed to be a "once-in-a-lifetime" late spring freeze in the state. Long-term weather predictions for this region of the USA are calling for more severe cold winters and hotter, drier summers. We can no longer assume that late spring freezes are going to be rare event for small grain producers. Produce need to take advantage of the latest research findings and information about variety selection and crop management, specifically for reducing their risk to late freeze injury.

The NCSU Small Grains Field Day will take special focus on this very issue. The field day will be held in Salisbury on Wednesday, May 16. Conditions are excellent at this location to see and understand how variety selection and management can be combined to result in a disastrous yield reduction or NO FREEZE INJURY at all. We have wheat plots planted as early as September 7, 2006, that have little to no freeze injury compared to others planted at normal dates with 50% to 70% yield reductions.

One hour of pesticide credits and three hours CCA credits will be offered. Lunch, including homemade ice cream, will be served.

Agenda

9:00  Registration
9:15  Welcome - Steve Troxler
9:30  Field Tours

Wheat varieties: Impact of variety selection on freeze damage - Dr. Paul Murphy
1. Using day-length sensitive varieties to avoid freeze damage allows for very early planting - Dr. Randy Weisz
2. Impact of no-till residue management and variety selection on yield and head scab - Dr. Christina Cowger
3. Hard wheat varieties and management - Drs. David Marshal and Myron Fountain
4. Small grain varieties for straw production - Dr. Greg Hoyt
5. Small grain herbicide update - Dr. Alan York

12:30 Lunch and Special Presentations

- "What you need to know about Pioneer-patented wheat seed" - Dr. Jan Spears
- "Success of the cereal leaf beetle program" - Dr. Kathleen Kidd

If you would like directions to the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury, please see:
http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/PlaceHolder/Field%20Day.html

WHEAT – EASTER FREEZE UPDATE: How To Evaluate Yield Potential

I have included the link to Smart Grains Fact Sheet from Dr. Randy Weisz that will help you evaluate your yield potential. Please review this information and give me a call if you need assistance in determining whether to destroy your small grain crop to plant full-season soybeans or any other purpose. (www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/SmartGrains/No12Freeze2.pdf)

Will Freeze-Damaged Leaves Hurt Yield?

A lot of our wheat has freeze-burned leaves. Will freeze-damaged flag leaves hurt yield? Dr. Van Duyn looked at the impact of leaf tissue damage on yield. He found that if 75% of the flag leaf was damaged, AND 60% of the two leaves below it were also damaged, yield losses were only around 15%! Wheat has the ability to fill grain even when the upper leaves are damaged.

What About Current Wheat Prices?

Income from wheat is obviously dependent upon two factors -- yields and prices. With wheat prices at high levels, especially with many acres forward priced, we need to seriously look at prospects for yields. High prices can offset losses in yield. Before you make a decision to destroy this crop, make sure you have a good estimate on your crop’s yield potential. It may look much worse than it actually is. It is time to scout your fields.

1ST ANNUAL CANOLA FIELD DAY

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Miracle Acres Farm, Bolton, N.C.

Learn more about the methods, economics, and markets surrounding canola production in North Carolina. Harry Hart and his family have planted six acres of canola and will provide information about their crop as well as the future of this industry.

This event is co-hosted by Cape Fear Biofuels, a local nonprofit dedicated to the development of a biofuels infrastructure in our region:
www.capefearbiofuels.com

Directions:
Follow Highway 74/76 east towards Bolton. Turn right (south) on Highway 211. Miracle Acres Lane is approximately 5 miles on the left. Call 910-471-5778 for more information.

Sincerely,

Kent D. Wooten
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Extension Agent
Agriculture – Field Crops
KDW/dp