

Field Crops Newsletter

Granville and Person County
Mikayla Graham

Wheat Recovering from Drought

OBSERVATIONS OF SCOUTING WHEAT IN GRANVILLE COUNTY



Wheat recovering from drought damage. *Photo by Mikayla Graham*

You have likely noticed that it has been a very dry fall, which has put some wheat behind schedule in germinating and tillering. I traveled out to a few locations in Granville County last week to take a look at some wheat that had seen some yellowing prior to the rain and snow that occurred around January 3rd.

The leaves and tillers that had turned yellow are now starting to turn brown and die off, and new, green growth has begun. What happened with crops in this situation is that lack of moisture caused nitrogen to not be available in the plant, resulting in the previous yellowing. The rain and snowfall recently provided the wheat with moisture needed to have access to nitrogen and other nutrients, resulting in a green flush of plant growth.

So, if you are seeing any similar symptoms, it is likely that the wheat just needed some moisture and will continue to tiller and grow as we get into colder weather. If you are worried about your crop, a good thing you can do to check it is dig up plants and look at their roots. If the roots are well established, the crop will likely start picking up soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at the Person or Granville Extension Offices.

JANUARY 2022

INSIDE

Piedmont Tobacco Meeting

Post Control of Ryegrass

Fire Ant Quarantine

Upcoming Events

This newsletter is designed to give you up to date information on crops from NC State University and other sources. For more information:

Contact

PERSON COUNTY

304 S Morgan Street
Room 123
Roxboro, NC 27573

PH: 336.599.1195
person.ces.ncsu.edu

GRANVILLE COUNTY

124 Oxford Outer Loop
Oxford, NC 27565

PH: 919.599.1195
granville.ces.ncsu.edu

MIKAYLA GRAHAM

Mikayla_graham@ncsu.edu

Piedmont Tobacco Production Meeting

Highlights and Take-Home Messages

If you missed the Tobacco Production Meeting on January 6th online and at the Person County office, here are some highlights:

Ramsey Lewis – Tobacco Breeder

- Tobacco varieties have transitioned from very tall, giant plants to smaller, more compact plants
- Newer varieties, though shorter, outyield older varieties.
- Many promising varieties are being, or are close to being, released with high yield potential and high black shank resistance, including the recently released NC1226 and NC960.

Adrienne Gorny – Nematodes

- There are good and bad (or parasitic nematodes).
- Some nematodes, like the soybean cyst and tobacco cyst nematodes are host specific and can be managed by rotating to non-host crops.
- Some nematodes, like the southern root-knot and guava root-knot nematodes, have a broad range of hosts, making them more difficult to manage.
- The most common nematode found in the region, according to a 2021 survey, is the soybean cyst nematode.

Matthew Vann – Tobacco Agronomy

- We have bad news – high fertilizer prices, high worker wages, and fluctuating fuel prices...
- But we also have good news – great genetics, optimal fertilizer options, effective weed control, and a possibility for demand increase (see Blake Brown's section)
- DON'T cut corners on fertilizer and weed control, if possible.
- DON'T untested products or substitute fertilizer applications with non-fertilizer products



Tobacco harvest in Person County. *Picture by Mikayla Graham*

Blake Brown – Tobacco Economics

- China is back as a US tobacco importer
- The US's biggest competitors for tobacco production are Zimbabwe and Brazil
- Brazil's crop yield is on the low side this year.
- Because of Brazil's lower yield and China's demand, we have a slight tobacco deficit, which could mean a possible increase in pounds for US growers.
- The immigration reform will likely not go through due to all of the differing political opinions.
- Likely all variable costs will increase some this year, estimated 14% increase overall.

A video of the production meeting will be shared as soon as it is available.

If you missed this meeting, there will be another Tobacco Production Meeting in Louisburg, NC on January 19th! Look at "Upcoming Events" for more information.

Post-Emergent Control of Italian Ryegrass

From weed specialist Wesley Everman

Hoelon used to be our standard product, however, 95 to 98% of Italian ryegrass samples we tested were resistant to Hoelon, so we've effectively overused it.

We recommend using a residual herbicide in the post-emergence spray especially if you haven't used a pre-emergence herbicide at planting. It takes a little pressure off of that post-emergence herbicide and allows for some control of any that may germinate in the spring.

Currently, we have 3 effective herbicides for post-emergence use on Italian ryegrass in wheat:

Osprey – ALS inhibitor

PowerFlex – ALS inhibitor

Axial XL – ACC-ase inhibitor

We do have Italian ryegrass biotypes that are resistant to each one of these herbicides, but if we understand what bio-types we have and rotate our chemistries we can be effective at controlling it.

Read more at: <https://smallgrains.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/12/post-emergence-control-of-italian-ryegrass/>



Italian Ryegrass. *Photo from The Regents of the University of California.*



Black imported fire ant. *Photo by USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, Bugwood.org.*

Quarantine area for imported fire ant

Expanding to include all of Granville County and portions of Caswell and Person Counties

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is expanding a state quarantine for the imported fire ant (IFA) to include all of Granville and portions of Caswell and Person counties effective Jan. 1, 2022. With the expansion, the quarantine now includes portions or entire areas of 79 counties.

The quarantine continues efforts to monitor the spread of this pest and address mitigation or control measures. Under quarantine rules, residents and business owners in these counties will need to obtain a permit before moving plants, sod and related equipment into or through non-infested areas. Certificates can be obtained from a local plant protection specialist or by contacting the Plant Protection Section at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

Read More at <http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2021/12-21fireantquarantineexpands.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 Regional Tobacco Production Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 8:30 AM

- In-person at the Louisburg Meeting Facility (Franklin Plaza, 279 South Bickett Blvd., Louisburg, NC)
- Speakers: Drs. Matthew Vann, Hannah Burrack, Adrienne Gorny, and Blake Brown
- Register at go.ncsu.edu/regionaltobaccomeeting
- 2 hours of N, D, O, and X NCDA&CS credit offered



2022 Regional Grain Production Meeting

Monday, February 29, 2022 @ 8:30 AM

- In-person at the Vance County Regional Farmers Market
- Speakers: Scott Tilley, and Drs. Ron Heiniger, Rachel Vann, and Wesley Everman
- Register at <https://go.ncsu.edu/2022regionalgrainmeeting>
- At least 1 hour N, D, O, and X NCDA&CS credit offered

V Pesticide Credits (2 hours each)

February 15th @ 10AM AND

February 22nd @ 6:30PM

- In-person at the Person County Extension Office
- Registration Required (336-599-1195)

Respirator Fit Test

January 31, 2022

- Granville County Extension Office
- Complete kit included in mailing!
- Contact Lea Hollinger at Occupational Team Solutions (336-210-5658) with any questions

Auxin Training

Offered via ZOOM on the dates and times in the chart below:

- **Zoom Registration Link:** go.ncsu.edu/2022_auxin_training
- **Zoom Passcode:** 028935
- For more information look at <https://granville.ces.ncsu.edu/field-crops-program/pesticide-continuing-education-credits/>

Training will also be offered in person in March 2022

| | Date | Time | Day of week |
|---|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 1 | January 20 | 8:30 AM | Thursday |
| 2 | February 1 | 8:30 AM | Tuesday |
| 3 | February 17 | 8:30 AM | Thursday |
| 4 | March 1 | 8:30 AM | Tuesday |
| 5 | March 15 | 8:30 AM | Tuesday |
| 6 | March 30 | 8:30 AM | Wednesday |

ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee translate research-based education from our state's land-grant universities, NC State and N.C. A&T, into everyday solutions. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment by responding to local needs.