

Field Crops Newsletter

Granville and Person County
Mikayla Graham

Early Season Considerations for Wheat

As we come to an end to the summer season, it is time to start looking to this year's winter wheat crop. Here are a few things to keep in mind as we approach this season:

Winter Wheat/Cover Crop Seed

If you plan to purchase seed this year, for wheat or for other cover crops, do so as soon as you are able. Some reports from seed representative have shown that seed is available, but some varieties are short and tough to get, or quantities are limited.

Variety Selection

I suggest that you use the Variety Selection Tool from NC State to choose the varieties you plant on your farm. This tool allows you to identify certain qualities – such as yield, falling number, soil type, and more – that are important for you and your operation. You can find the tool here: <https://ncovt.medius.re>. If you need help with this tool, please let me know.

Fertility – N, P, and K

The best way to ensure you are applying all of the fertility you need is to take a soil sample, or base applications off of your most recent soil sample. If you do not have access to this, here are NC State recommendations of fertilizer for winter wheat: 30-40lbs of phosphorus and 50-60lbs of K₂O (only if K is deficient) preplant. The blanket recommendation for NC, regardless of NCDA soil report number or prior crop, is to apply 30lbs of nitrogen preplant. I would also urge you to add sulfur to your crop as well, either in a mix with your nitrogen, or to your granular fertilizer mix.

Weed Management

Italian ryegrass is one of the most difficult to control weeds in wheat. It is important to ensure that a good burndown or tillage is utilized prior to planting. Gramoxone and roundup are both excellent options, though be wary of Roundup resistant weeds. Whether you are burning down your field or utilizing tillage, I would suggest for you to think about applying Valor (flumioxazin) prior to planting because it will allow for residual suppression of many common weeds, including Italian ryegrass and annual bluegrass. As for pre-emergent herbicides (to be sprayed after planting but prior to the wheat germinating), Zidua (pyroxasulfone) and Anthem Flex (pyroxasulfone + carfentrazone) provide excellent control of Italian ryegrass. Anthem Flex can be sprayed immediately after planting. You must wait to apply Zidua after the seed has germinated and the radicle is emerged (spike stage). Some good options to controlling broadleaf weeds in wheat include 2,4-D, Harmony, and Quelex. If you would like help developing a weed management plan for your wheat, please let me know!



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Organic Cost Share Opportunity

NC Bever Management

A note from your agent

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

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NCD&CS offers organic certification cost-share assistance

RALEIGH – Organic growers in North Carolina can apply for partial reimbursement of the cost of becoming certified or for recertification through a program offered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Growers who are certified or recertified between Oct. 1, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2022, can apply for assistance through the program.

“Applicants can be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the cost of organic certification per category,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and I would encourage growers and handlers to submit their applications early.”

Under the grant, operations can be certified and reimbursed in four separate categories: crops, livestock, wild crop and handler/processor. The maximum reimbursement per category is \$500.

The program is for the 2021-22 season and is funded through a \$105,800 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 18.

To apply, growers must provide a completed application, along with detailed invoices/statements from the certifying agency listing all National Organic Program certified costs, proof of payment, a substitute W-9 form and a copy of your certificate or letter from your certifier if this is a new certification. All charges must be for USDA organic certification. The application can be downloaded at www.ncdaorganic.org or growers can also apply through their local Farm Service Agency office.

Application and required documents can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the NCD&CS Organic Certification Cost Share Program, Attn. Heather Barnes. For questions, contact Barnes at 919-749-3337.



NC Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP)



The Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) aims to help manage beaver-related problems on private and public lands. Because of practical and ecological considerations, the program is not designed to eradicate beaver populations; rather its aim is to assist the NC Department of Transportation, local governments, and private landholders in addressing specific beaver damage issues.

BMAP specialists work to educate customers about a variety of beaver management strategies, such as exclusion, pond levelers, and other nonlethal techniques. When deemed necessary, they will remove beaver and/or dams using humane and environmentally acceptable techniques.

Person County is participating this FY2023 by contributing a \$6000 participation fee, which grants residents access to services provided by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Landholders pay the following cost-share fees for services:

- \$25 per site visit
- \$125 per dam removed

Initial assessments are provided at no charge. Beaver management specialists average 10 visits over a 30 day period to resolve the problem. Costs to the landholder increase after 15 visits to the full market value of beaver management services. Landholders willing to conduct beaver management activities are provided individual training at no cost.

Requests for assistance are handled on a first-come, first-served basis. However, projects that address threats to public health and safety receive top priority. There is now an online request for services form that you can fill out if you are interested: <https://www.personcountync.gov/government/departments-i-z/soil-and-water/beaver-management-assistance-program>

Reducing Spread of Herbicide Resistant Weed Seed During Harvest, Tillage Operations

Below is an excerpt of an article from Michigan State University Extension. However, it highlights very important practices that you should utilize during harvest if possible to help reduce the spread of weed populations from field to field, especially pesticide resistant weed populations.

**By: Michael Staton and Christy Sprague,
Michigan State University Extension**

One of the most practical and effective methods of reducing field-to-field spread of weed seed is to harvest fields or areas of fields infested with herbicide-resistant weeds after harvesting all of your clean fields.

When infested fields must be harvested before clean fields, a thorough top-to-bottom and front-to-back cleaning of the combine is recommended. However, this may take 4 to 5 hours, so it is probably not possible when moving from field-to-field.

When a thorough cleaning is not possible, Iowa State University Extension agricultural engineer emeritus Mark Hanna recommends investing 15 to 30 minutes to remove at least some of the plant material before leaving the field. The steps to this procedure are listed below.



Palmer amaranth. Photo from NC State University.

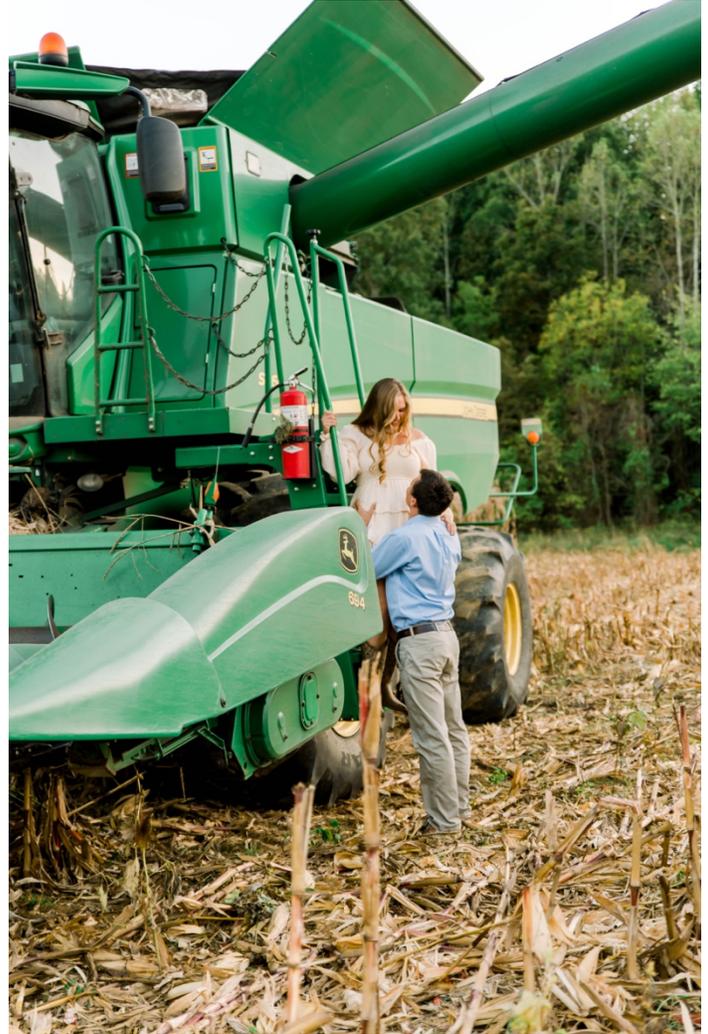
- Remove the combine head and open the doors at the bottom of the rock trap, clean grain elevator and the unloading auger sump.
- Clear the area around the combine to avoid injury from flying debris.
- Allow the combine to “self-clean” by starting it up and running it with the thresher and separator at full speed, the concave clearance and cleaning shoe sieves fully open and the cleaning fan set to the maximum speed. Drive the combine over the end rows or other rough ground to dislodge biomaterial.
- Shut the combine off and use an air compressor or leaf blower to clean the feederhouse, rock trap and head. Using a two-strap dust mask and eye protection is highly recommended when using an air compressor or leaf blower.
- Close the doors on the rock trap, elevator and unloading auger sump when finished.

While the procedure outlined above will help reduce the quantity of weed seed moved from field-to-field by the combine, it is not as effective for removing small seeds as a complete top-to-bottom cleanout. Therefore, consider thoroughly cleaning the combine on rainy days and again at the end of the season.

Weed seeds also travel on tractor tires and tillage implements, so tilling your weed-infested fields after your clean fields is the best way to prevent spreading weed seeds during tillage operations. When this is not possible, remove as much soil as you can from all tires and the ground-working parts of tillage implements before entering a new field.

A note from your agent:

Some of you may know that I am getting married this month! My wedding is on October 22nd in Cleveland, NC, so I will be out of town the week of the 22nd to make the last preparations and the week after for my honeymoon! I know this is a busy time of the year, so if you do have questions or concerns, please still reach out to me! Let me know if you need a consultation before Friday, October 14th to ensure I have time to get you the support you need. In the meantime, please enjoy some of our engagement pictures we took on the farm last fall!



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