

To: Local News
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Cereal Rye Control in Wheat

Cereal rye can provide excellent weed suppression as a cover crop; however, it should be handled carefully. Cereal rye can be introduced into a wheat field (Figure 1) by contamination of harvest or seed conditioning equipment, dry fertilizer spreaders, or drills. Seeds and pollen can also be moved by wind or other natural means. Cereal rye is very similar to wheat in terms of life cycle, growth requirements, and appearance. Cereal rye is generally taller than winter wheat, and the seed heads are usually longer and thinner. The ligule of cereal rye does not have a fringe of hairs (winter wheat does), Cereal rye seeds are longer than wheat seeds and usually shaded more yellow or green rather than red. Chemical control in wheat is limited to herbicide-tolerant varieties. Control during other phases of the crop rotation is also important. For example, letting rye emerge during a fallow phase of the rotation and applying glyphosate and/or atrazine. Clearfield wheat varieties allow the use of Beyond (imazamox). Imazamox is more effective on other cool-season grass weeds, and only provides suppression of cereal rye. If you choose a Clearfield variety, be sure to spray before rye tillers. CoAXium wheat varieties allow the use of Aggressor (quizalofop). Quizalofop provides excellent control of cereal rye. In studies at Great Bend control was 94% or greater with 10 or 12 fl oz of Aggressor applied with either NIS or MSO in fall or spring. Quizalofop is a Group 1 herbicide that only controls grasses. In both systems, cereal rye control will be reduced if applications are made when temperatures are below 40F during the week following application.

Kansas Wheat Variety Guide

Now is the time for wheat producers across Kansas to review yield data and decide which varieties they will plant in the fall. Although yield is always a top priority, disease and insect resistance, along with appropriate agronomic traits, can buffer against crop losses. In addition, genetic resistance to diseases and insect pests can be the most effective, economical, and environmentally sound method for control.

The Kansas Wheat Variety Guide 2024 (formerly called Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings) from K-State Research and Extension has been released for this year. It includes information on agronomic characteristics, disease, and pest resistance, as well as profiles that highlight some more common or new varieties in Kansas.

Ratings in this publication represent results from field and greenhouse evaluations by public and private wheat researchers at multiple locations over multiple years.

An electronic version of the *Kansas Wheat Variety Guide 2024* publication MF991 can be found at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF991.pdf>