

## **Southern Blacklands IPM Update – Volume 1, Issue 8**

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#### **Wheat:**

Wheat planting is just around the corner so be certain you have taken some time to make plans to get ready for this fall's wheat crop. Due to the Hessian fly problems in the Blacklands over the last two years, it is highly recommended that you take some steps to help reduce the burden of Hessian fly. The list below highlights some of the things you can do to help reduce the impact Hessian will or might have on your wheat crop.

1. Be sure to bury last year's wheat stubble at a minimum of 2". 3 to 4" inches would be better. Hopefully you have a disc or other implement that can get this done or have already done it.
2. Volunteer wheat management in last year's wheat fields.
3. Plant a resistant variety.
4. Try to plant this year's wheat fields as far as possible from last year's wheat fields that had Hessian fly.
5. Use seed treatment on your wheat seed. This can help reduce the early season impact of Hessian fly.

One of the bigger problems we have now in the Blacklands regarding Hessian fly is that varieties that were "resistant" in previous years have become less resistant or more susceptible than they were a few years ago. The reason for this is over the last couple of years there has been a shift in the biotypes of Hessian fly. Because of this shift, those varieties once known to have resistance to Hessian fly are now more susceptible. Moreover, it is still advisable to plant a current variety that has resistance to Hessian fly because it will still give some protection against the older biotypes of this pest that are still present.

The below link will take you to the 2023-2024 Texas A&M AgriLife "picks" list for hard red winter wheat varieties.

<https://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/AgriLife-Wheat-Grain-Variety-Picks-TX-2023-2024.pdf>

Under the HRRW column for the Texas Blacklands you will see varieties such as WB 4418 and Gallagher, etc. As of now, the standard for Hessian fly resistance in wheat is Gallagher followed by the others listed. Along with choosing a good variety is using a good seed treatment. As of now the best recommendation is to use the highest labeled rate of Gaucho as your seed treatment. There are obviously others like Poncho and Cruiser but they are not as effective, so if at all possible, use Gaucho.

Regarding the list above, hopefully you have already buried last year's wheat stubble to a sufficient depth. Keep in mind as we move closer to planting wheat that it's important to manage volunteer wheat plants in last year's wheat fields since these are hostable plants for an early generation of Hessian fly. So please use tillage or herbicide to control the volunteers.

There are several products available for getting your wheat crop off to a good start. Anthem Flex is a good product that can be applied delayed PRE or early POST (when wheat is spiking up to 4<sup>th</sup> tiller). Zidua is another product that is applied at delayed preemergence, but, one must wait until 80% of wheat seed has germinated and the shoot is at least ½ inch long. Both of these products will control certain broadleaf and grass weeds

(such as ryegrass). These are just a couple of examples and always remember to follow all label directions and restrictions. Below is a link to an Extension publication with some suggestions for weed control in wheat.

<https://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/#Weeds>

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