



Brown Wheat Mite (BWM)

We are finding Brown Wheat Mite at varying levels in local wheat fields. The easiest and quickest way to scout for BWM, is by

taping wheat plants over a piece of white paper and counting the dislodged BWM. Look for the small black dots (about the size of a period on ordinary newspaper print) quickly moving around on the white piece of paper. You will have to use a hand lens to see their yellowish-white legs. There is not a well defined economic threshold, but it is usually **several hundred mites per foot of row.**

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05578.html>

Dr. Ed Bynum, Extension Entomologist, provided the following information in the March 28, 2013 Panhandle Pest Update Newsletter.

Brown wheat mites are primarily a pest during drought stressed conditions which means dry-land fields often develop heavy infestations. Cold temperatures do not affect these mites. They actively feed on the wheat foliage on clear warm days, particularly during the mid-afternoon, and look like black specks moving on the leaves. At night they move down to the soil. A distinguishing trait for identifying these mites is the front legs which are about twice as long as long as their body. Knowing when to treat for infestations is difficult because drought stress can severely reduce crop yields, making treats uneconomical. And, if you can predict when it will rain, a driv-

ing rain of at least of 1/3 inch will cause mite densities to decline naturally, regardless of chemical controls. Insecticide products commonly used on the Texas High Plains for control of brown wheat mites are dimethoate and chlorpyrifos and, generally, chlorpyrifos for greenbug, Russian wheat aphid, and other aphids. Each will provide effective control but **the pre-harvest interval may be important depending on harvesting for grain, grazing, and cutting for forage.** The following table taken from CDMS provides label rates, PHI, and specific directions for dimethoate and chlorpyrifos:

Product	Rate	PHI
Dimethoate 2.67	0.75 to 1.13 pts/A (Aphids-greenbugs)	Harvest for grain—35 days
	0.75 to 1.5 pts/A (Brown wheat mites)	Do not apply within 14 days of grazing
Dimethoate 4E	1/2 to 3/4 pt/A	Harvest for gain—35 days
	1/3 to 1/2 pt/A (Brown wheat mites)	Do not apply within 14 days of grazing (some labels do not have this statement)
Chlorpyrifos 4E (many different products)	1/2 to 1 pt/A Aphids (including greenbugs, Russian wheat aphids) and Brown wheat mites	Do not apply within 14 days of harvest for forage and hay and within 28 days of harvest for grain and straw. Do no allow livestock to graze or feed on treated forage within 14 days of application.

Freeze Damaged Wheat??

With last weeks cool spell, several people have been wondering if their wheat sustained any freeze damage. Early maturing wheat is more likely to be injured than late maturing wheat. Burned leaf tips is the extent of the damage that I have observed so far. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Publication on *Freeze Injury on Wheat* is a useful publication to asses whether your fields are showing signs of freeze damage. The following link will take you to this publication

<http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/docs/mime-4.pdf>



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