

Wheat Seed Treatment

The Garden City Co-op will be offering wheat seed treatment for this year's wheat crop. With current drought conditions and uncertainty for what this fall will bring, extra inputs for a wheat crop may be far from everyone's mind. With having said that, I would like to point out some benefits and some positive attributes a wheat seed treatment may bring to the table for a minimal cost.

Seed treatments are a small piece of a large puzzle, and I would argue a very important piece. In general, most wheat producers follow pest management practices regularly, and have been for a long time. Just a few of these practices include planting resistant varieties, crop rotations, residue and volunteer management, and adequate fertility. Seed treatments are just another tool to use to help manage pests. Essentially a seed treatment could be looked at as an insurance policy against certain pathogens and insects. Every year is different, you may not know if conditions will be favorable for aphids, a certain fungus, or if your neighbor is going to let volunteer wheat grow next to you in a bad aphid year which may lead to wheat-streak mosaic. A wheat seed treatment may help combat some of these issues.

Seed treatments do not provide season long control, but do provide early season protection to wheat in the fall. A direct benefit to controlling early seedling disease and insects is often times better seedling and root health which indirectly means better vigor and stands. A lot of times getting a wheat stand in Western Kansas can be half the battle. I'm not saying a seed treatment is going to be the difference between no stand and a good stand, but anything we can do that may help in stands and vigor in my mind is worth it. In dry

conditions, having a seed treatment may give added protection to seeds from dry seed decays and rot allowing viable seeds to set in the soil until we get that rain to germinate them. On the flip side, in cool wet soils (late planted irrigated wheat behind corn), seed treatments will add protection from root and crown rots which can also aid in better vigor and stands.



The seed treatments we are offering through the Garden City Co-op will assist in controlling insects such as wireworm, aphids, and green bugs. Diseases controlled are early season damping-off, common bunt wheat, several smuts, Septoria disease complex, several types of root rot, and early season leaf rusts. In addition, a wheat seed treatment can help improve stand establishment under tough or poor growing conditions.



Seed treatment can prevent loose smut in wheat.

So the all important question is how much will treating my seed wheat cost? Total cost (treatment plus chemical) will be less than a bushel of wheat at current wheat price. We will be offering seed treatment opportunities along with wheat seed cleaning in both the Garden City and Dighton areas. Contact your Garden City Co-op salesman with any interest or questions and we will be glad to help.

Kyle Korf

Sales Manager