



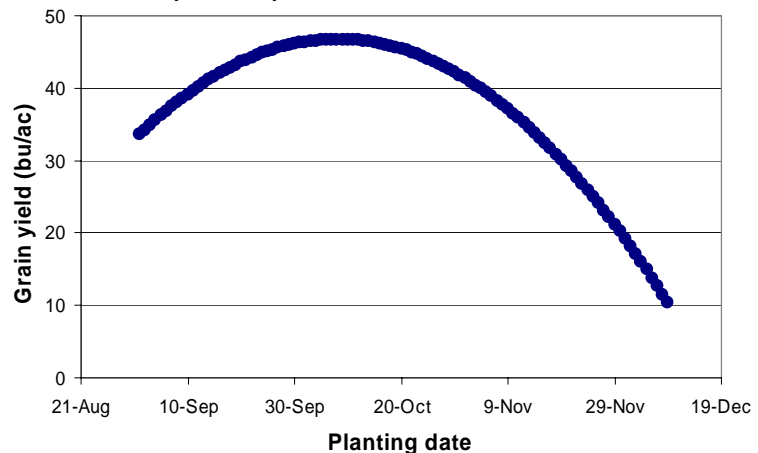
## To plant or not to plant: that is the question

*By Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Small Grains Extension Specialist*

The question on the mind of some producers right now is “*Do I continue to plant and, if so, what should be my cut off date to cease planting?*” I feel the best answer to this question is one that has been given by many agronomists in many situations.....*it depends on the year.* The truth is that there is no definite answer, but we are certainly past our optimal planting window.

A nine-year study conducted at the Lahoma research station from 1991 to 2000 indicated that yield potential of wheat planted November 16 was only 68% of that of wheat planted October 10 (Figure 1). Predicted yield for a November 25 planting date was 25 bushels/acre as compared to 30 bushels/acre just six days prior and a 47 bushel/acre for wheat planted on October 10. Again, all of these yield predictions would change according to the year and location, but previous years’ experiences indicate that any wheat planted from this date forward has a 50% yield potential at best. Producers choosing to continue to plant should use high seeding rates (> 2 bu/ac) and plan to topdress early in the spring.

**Figure 1.** Wheat grain yield as affected by planting date during a nine-year study at Lahoma, OK. (Adapted from Hossain et al. 2003)



Options for what to do with ground not planted to wheat will vary by region and individual producer. One option for producers that need additional forage production is a spring oat crop. This can be planted in February and can be grazed or cut for hay. Other options will be explored in future newsletters.

## Why is my wheat yellow?

*By Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Small Grains Extension Specialist*

Yellow wheat is visible in low areas throughout the state of Oklahoma, but in most cases this is a temporary problem. If the yellowing is occurring on older leaves and newly emerging leaves are green, then the yellowing is caused by Nitrogen (N) deficiency. According to extension soils

specialist **Dr. Hailin Zhang**, on most Oklahoma soils, Nitrogen deficiency is the result of waterlogged conditions preventing root growth and nutrient uptake as well as low N content in the soil. Furthermore, the recent slow, soaking rains have moved nitrate Nitrogen downward through the soil profile and temporarily out of reach of seedling root systems. In these cases the Nitrogen deficiency should take care of itself once conditions are drier and more conducive to root growth. One possible exception would be coarser soils with high sand content. The permeability of these soils allows for greater downward movement of nitrate Nitrogen and possible losses through leaching.

Whatever the cause of yellow wheat, the best option for producers at this point is to observe and wait. Air temperatures are getting colder and wheat growth is slowing; therefore, the likelihood of increasing fall forage production from additional Nitrogen applications is low. My recommendation is to wait until green up next spring and make any decisions about when to apply additional Nitrogen at that point. Additional information about OSU Nitrogen recommendations can be found in extension publication E-831 *Wheat Management in Oklahoma*.

## Wheat diseases and insects

Disease problems commonly appearing in Oklahoma wheat fields this fall include wheat leaf rust, tan spot, septoria leaf blotch, and common root rot. Detailed descriptions of these diseases can be found in the latest *Wheat Disease Update* produced by OSU Extension Plant Pathologist **Dr. Bob Hunger** (<http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/advisory.htm>). Wheat leaf rust pressure is heaviest in fields of susceptible varieties such as Jagger and Jagalene, but infestations at this time of year have no impact on yield potential. Management practices such as grazing and environmental conditions such as freezing temperatures will affect survivability of rust pustules during winter months. Growers should, therefore, evaluate disease pressure at flag leaf emergence next spring and make decisions about fungicide use at that time.

OSU Extension Entomologist **Dr. Tom Royer** has received several reports of bird cherry oat aphid infestations and localized occurrences of greenbug infestations. The bird cherry oat aphid can transmit the barley yellow dwarf virus to wheat plants. However, not all bird cherry oat aphids are a vector for the virus, and it is impossible to visually determine whether or not an aphid is a carrier for the barley yellow dwarf virus. Fields should be inspected regularly to determine the level of aphid and/or greenbug infestation. Scouting procedures, insect pictures, economic thresholds, and control recommendations can be found at <http://www.pswcrl.ars.usda.gov/gbweb/index.htm>.

## 2004 Brings new weed control options!

*By Dr. Case Medlin, OSU Extension Weed Specialist*

Several new herbicides for grass control in wheat have been labeled for the 2004-05 growing season. This means a decision will need to be made on which product will be purchased to control these grassy weeds. Until this year the decision was pretty easy because the only products we had to keep separate were Maverick, Puma, Beyond, and Hoelon. With Olympus, Osprey, and Finesse Grass and Broadleaf being marketed this year, the decision-making becomes

quite a bit tougher. Following is a list of points to consider when making the decision. Keep in mind that success will vary with application and weather factors.

- Exactly what weeds are in the field(s).
  - If only one weed is present, then the following choices are available:
    - Cheat – Olympus, Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Maverick, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf
    - Japanese brome – Olympus
    - Italian ryegrass – Hoelon, Osprey, Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf
    - Wild oats – Puma, Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Hoelon, Osprey, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf
    - Rye – suppression with Beyond with Clearfield Wheat
    - Jointed goatgrass – Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, some suppression with Olympus but you will not get control
    - Rescuegrass - Beyond with Clearfield Wheat is not perfect, but it is the best that we have
  - However, if multiple grass species are in the field, then fewer options may fit, for example:
    - Cheat and Italian ryegrass – Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf, (A 2ee recommendation is pending, but once we have it, Osprey 3.2 oz/A + Olympus 0.3 oz/A can be used)
    - Cheat and wild oats – Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf, (A 2ee recommendation is pending, but once we have it, Osprey 3.2 oz/A + Olympus 0.3 oz/A can be used)
    - Italian ryegrass and wild oats – Hoelon, Osprey, Beyond with Clearfield Wheat, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf
- Where there are still multiple products for the weed complex in the field, consider other factors to help make the decision such as
  - Is crop rotation flexibility important?
    - Finesse Grass and Broadleaf – very long residual and does not fit a crop rotation system well
    - Maverick – very long residual and does not fit a crop rotation system well
    - Olympus – has soil residual activity, but is much more flexible in terms of crop rotation
    - Osprey – very little soil activity and extremely flexible for crop rotations
    - Hoelon - very good selection if crop rotation is important. Note that Hoelon now has only a 28 day grazing restriction rather than a full season restriction
  - Compare the prices of the remaining options; there are some major price differences among these products.
  - Consider past support, good or bad, from a company whose products you have used in the past. Reputation may come into play in the decision making process. Will the company stand behind its product if there is a performance problem?
  - Is the applicator applying the product comfortable with the product's use recommendations? Does the product require any special considerations? For

example, Osprey requires the addition of a methylated seed oil and is less effective when applied with a standard nonionic surfactant?

- Weather conditions may also play a role in determining which product to use. For example, OSU data has proven that Olympus performs better than Maverick during very cold conditions of winter months. However, when applied under ideal conditions, both products perform adequately.
- If the producer intends to graze the field, his/her choice of products may vary. For example, Hoelon now has a 28 day grazing restriction where many other products do not have grazing restrictions.

## Upcoming events

**November 30, 2004** – Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association annual convention. 12:00 pm, Cherokee Strip Conference Center, Enid, OK.

**January 20, 2005** – Hard White Wheat Summit. 8:30 am, Texas County Activities Center, Guymon, OK.

**January 21, 2005** - Wheat Pasture Field Day. 11:30 to 2:30 pm, at the Wheat Pasture Research Unit, intersection of Hwy. 51 and 74, Marshall, OK

## Subscription information

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