



U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative

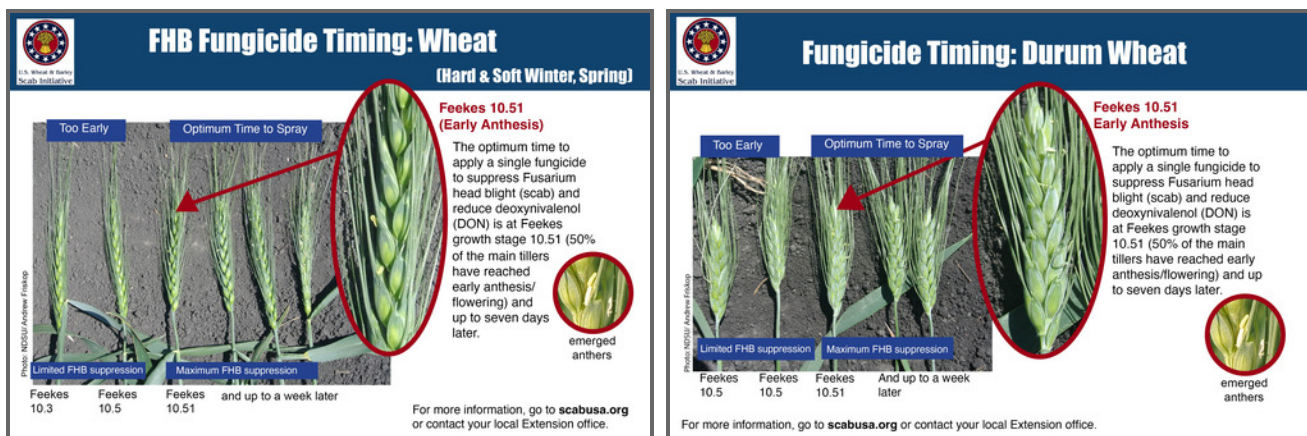
FHB Tool Talk

Dear Extension Specialists, Crop Consultants, and Grower Organizations,

Spring wheat and durum will be heading and flowering soon in the U.S. Now is the time to start thinking about managing Fusarium head blight (FHB) and its associated mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (DON). While making management decisions, here are some helpful tips to keep in mind.

1. The best application window for FHB and DON suppression in spring wheat and durum begins at early-flowering and extends up to seven days later. Our research efforts through the USWBSI have indicated that this is the best timing to suppress FHB and DON, while protecting yield.

The USWBSI's [fungicide timing postcards](#) can help correctly identify growth stages in spring wheat and durum.



2. If your field contains multiple stages, the best fungicide application timing is 5 to 7 days after the earliest growth stages begin flowering. For example, if 40% of your field is at early flowering today, 40% is at full-head, and 20% is at half-head, applying a fungicide in 3 to 5 days may be your best option. This will increase the chances of gaining adequate fungicide coverage on most of the heads in the field.

3. Durum varieties with the highest levels of resistance / tolerance should be viewed as moderately susceptible. When using the [FHB Risk Tool](#), change the susceptibility of your variety by clicking the bulleted list icon button located in the top left corner of the map.

4. Should I use two fungicide applications to manage FHB and DON? Research suggests that two applications using different fungicides will generally result in greater disease reduction in spring wheat and durum. However, in several studies one well timed

application of a good fungicide was just as effective as two fungicide applications. Given the additional input costs associated with a second fungicide application, it may be best to apply a fungicide once during the seven-day application window. Reminder: Not all fungicides registered on small grain crops are effective in managing FHB. See the [Fungicide Efficacy Guide for Control of Wheat Diseases](#) on the Crop Protection Network to help pick the best fungicide options for managing FHB.

5. A pattern of rainy weather with mild temperatures during spring wheat flowering may not necessitate a fungicide application. Farmers are encouraged to use crop growth stage, field cropping history, variety susceptibility, and the FHB Risk Tool to determine the risk of FHB. It is common for FHB risk to be low in many spring wheat growing regions due to the genetic resistance that occurs in most of the varieties.

6. If you planted your spring wheat or durum following corn, consider fungicide application a standard practice. Hard white spring wheat and durum are the most susceptible to infection by *F. graminearum*. Even with the least susceptible varieties of hard white spring wheat, growers should consider standard applications of effective fungicides at anthesis. That risk increases when corn production occurs locally.

7. Consider shutting off irrigation. Where soil moisture reserves can be built up in finer textured soils, shut off the irrigation for 5-7 days during anthesis and apply an effective fungicide particularly to the circle surrounding the first tower of the center pivot where the highest duration of irrigation and disease occurs.

Thank you for reading!

If this email was forwarded to you and you would like to receive FHB Tool Talk e-newsletters, [subscribe today](#).

*In order to target a wide range of grain classes and production regions, you may have received this message sooner than you needed. Please bookmark this email and refer back to it when the timing is correct for your region/grain class.



More FHB Resources for [Extension, Crop Consultants, and Grower Organizations](#).

Copyright © 2026 U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative. All rights reserved.

*U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
495 Borlaug Hall
1991 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108
nfo@scabusa.org*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

[Update subscription preferences.](#)

To unsubscribe from this list, email fbtooltalk_unsubscribe@scabusa.org with the word unsubscribe.

