



# 2016 Wheat Update

## Nutrition, Powdery Mildew, Weed and Insect Alerts

Mild December temps have accelerated wheat growth. It's time to topdress wheat very soon. As a reminder, our best yields have come when wheat is topdressed with a winter nitrogen application between 800 and 1,000 GDU, which usually occurs around the first week of February based on an October 15th planting date.

The chart below shows that we usually do not get to 900 GDU until the first week of February. As shown in the table, wheat planted on October 15 in Central VA reached 906 GDU on December 31 according to our Manquin satellite weather station.

2012 was very similar to this year. The two most notable events in 2012 was the disease pres-

Year	Dec 31 GDU	State Avg. Yield
2004	738	55
2005	769	63
2006	661	68
2007	777	64
2008	787	73
2009	785	55
2010	869	51
2011	762	71
2012	986	65
2013	809	62
2014	851	68
2015	815	66
<b>2016</b>	<b>906</b>	

sure from the wet late April (bad news) but the wheat crop was harvested about three weeks early than normal (good news).

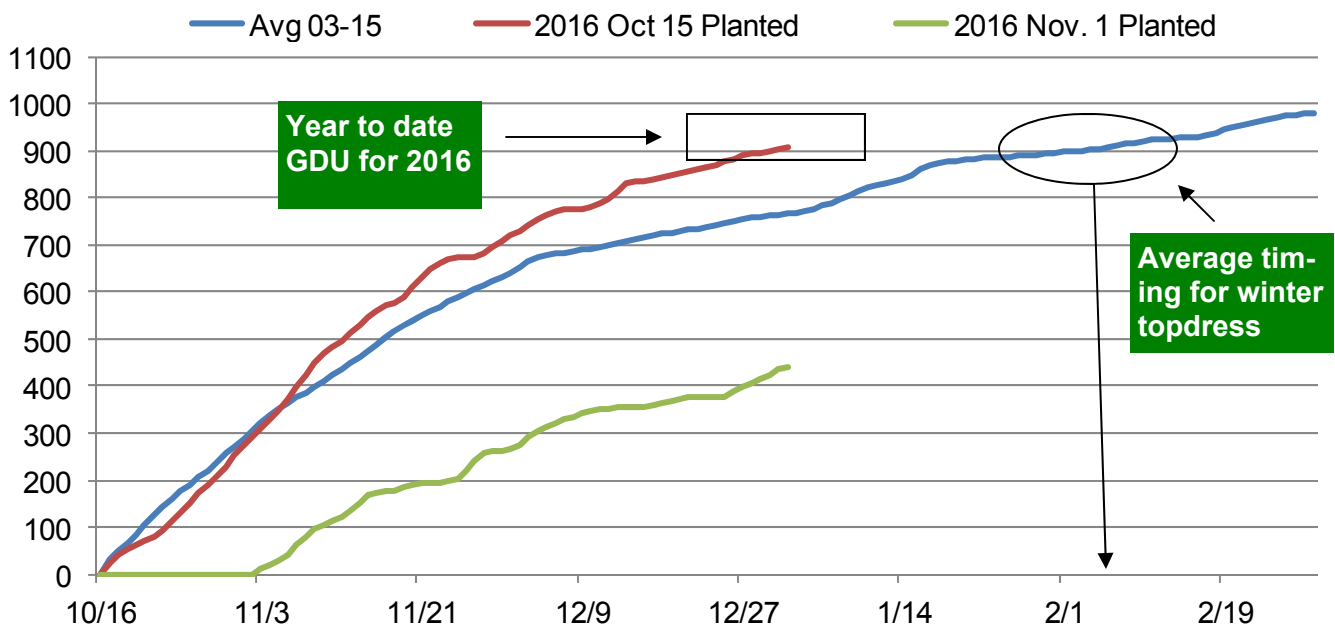
There are two full tillers in most fields so the recommendation is for 60 lbs. /acre of nitrogen. Since there has been so much rainfall, fall sulfur has likely leached and a N:S fertilizer in an 6:1 ratio (ex: 28-0-0-5) would seem to be the best solution. Add .25 to .5 lbs. /acre of zinc to this spray if none has been applied or seed was not treated with zinc.

For November-planted wheat, winter applications will need to be completed by the end of February regardless of the GDU accumulated. As the days get longer, the wheat accelerates thru the vegetative stages and tillering will be completed just after March 20 (days become longer than nights).



One full tiller: three leaves and a growing point

2016 Wheat Manquin VA 2" Soil GDU





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## Wheat Nutrition, Powdery Mildew, Weed and Insect Alerts

With the damp fall weather, it's no surprise to find powdery mildew in wheat fields. Wheat planted in October has more infection than November-planted wheat.

According to the [Compendium of Wheat Diseases](#), (APS Press, 1997), mildew infections on young tillers results in reduced head numbers and lower kernel weights or may fail to produce any head at all. Yield losses are greatest when infections occur prior to flowering. Planting resistant varieties is the best defense against mildew but most varieties become resistant or immune only as adult plants.

Because of mildew infections, growers are urged to consider including Tilt® (propiconazole) with their winter nitrogen topdress. Propiconazole mixes well with nitrogen solution and is rated as "very good" on mildew (and tan spot) control in wheat.

There are reports from North Carolina that Hessian fly is infecting wheat due to mild temperatures in December. According to NCSU, ***"Hessian flies in wheat planted during October have already turned over a generation and are emerging and laying eggs. Larvae will hatch from these eggs and feed throughout the cold months, killing any tillers that survived the first generation"***.

Growers that planted wheat varieties treated with Renwood's **Vizor Plus** or **Vizor 5Z** seed treatments are safe (so far) from Hessian fly and aphids due to the 42% higher insecticide rate than found in most other seed treatments. There have been reports of aphids in wheat fields but not in fields treated with **Vizor Plus** or **Vizor 5Z**.



Hessian fly in wheat

However, since a winter topdress is recommended now and temps are forecasted to stay above normal, a pyrethroid insecticide is encouraged to limit aphid and Hessian fly damage going forward. Early winter applications of insecticides are not normally recommended with seed treatments or fall applications but this is a very different winter.

If needed, apply Harmony Extra® and dicamba (no 2,4-D) to control winter annuals. Henbit and chickweed should be smaller than a half-dollar for good control. If applying with nitrogen solutions, do not add surfactants.

It is not time to spray for ryegrass or bluegrass as average daily temps need to be above 45F for materials to control ryegrass. Wait for warmer temps.