

Fusarium Head Blight Risk Mapping Tool – 2024 Summary

Paul Bullock¹, Timi Ojo^{1,2}, Manasah Mkhabela^{1,3}, Jamie Wan¹, Taurai Matengu¹, Henrique Carvalho¹

¹Dept of Soil Science, University of MB, ²Crop Production Section, MB Agriculture, ³Digital Agriculture and Climate Resilience Unit, MB Agriculture

The new prairie-wide Fusarium head blight (FHB) risk mapping tool was publicly-available for the first time during the 2024 growing season. It provides FHB disease risk assessments for spring wheat, winter wheat, durum and barley from May 15 to August 31 and can be accessed at “prairiefhb.ca” using a computer, tablet or mobile phone. Real-time weather data from hundreds of prairie weather stations are used to calculate the FHB risk, with updates on a daily basis. Uptake by users was excellent with 5,700 unique visitors and 70,000 visits between May 1 and Aug 31. The risk assessments are intended to inform growers about potential FHB damage in time to apply fungicide control. The red-colored areas (high risk) or black-colored areas (very high risk) on the maps DO NOT MEAN “Spray fungicide”. They mean “FHB risk is high (red) or very high (black) in that area, so check your fields to see if spray is needed”. The FHB risk maps are one important tool towards efficient and cost-effective use of fungicides for control of the disease. Enhancements for 2025 are in progress and a communication plan to raise awareness of the tool is underway.